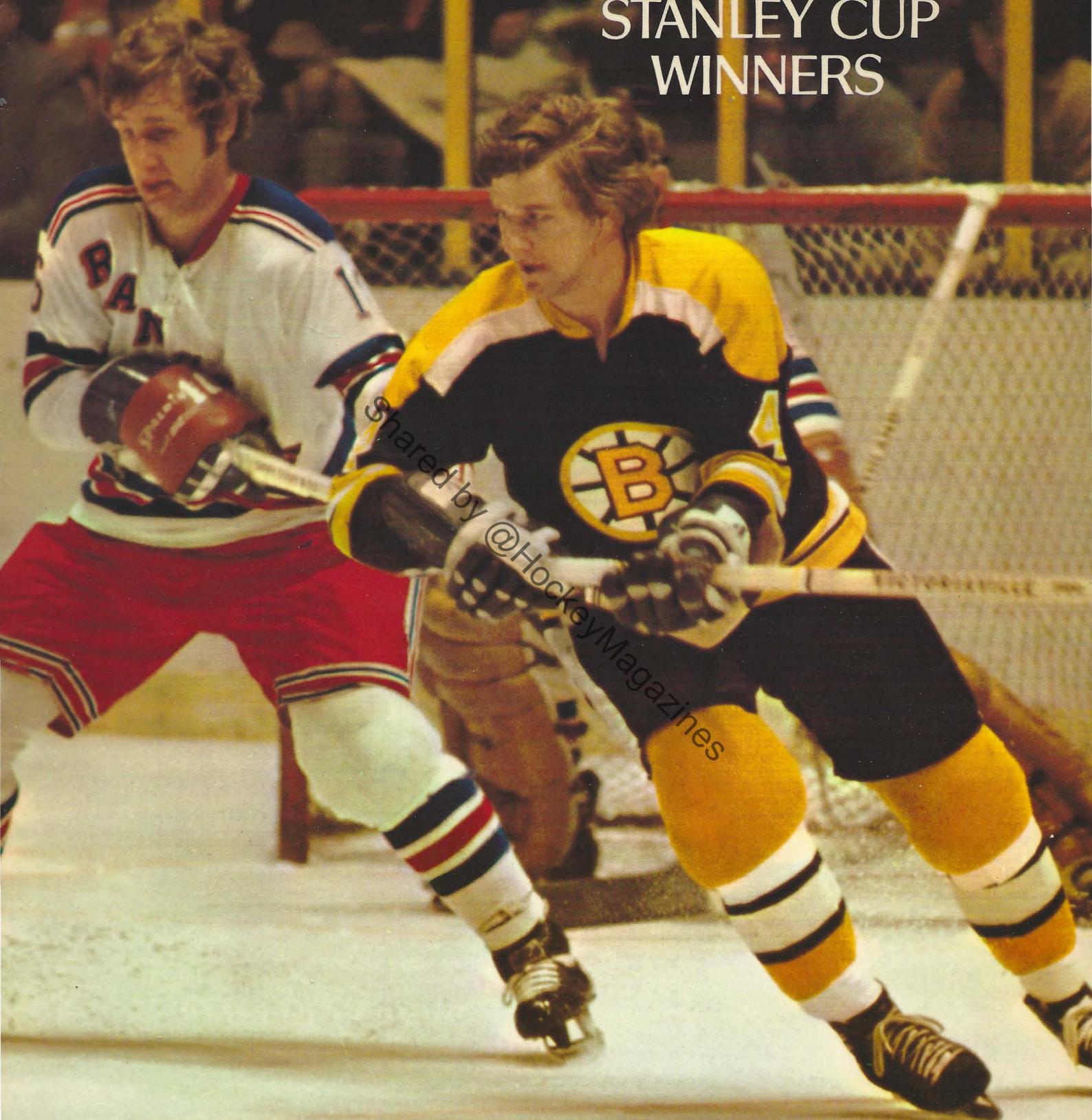


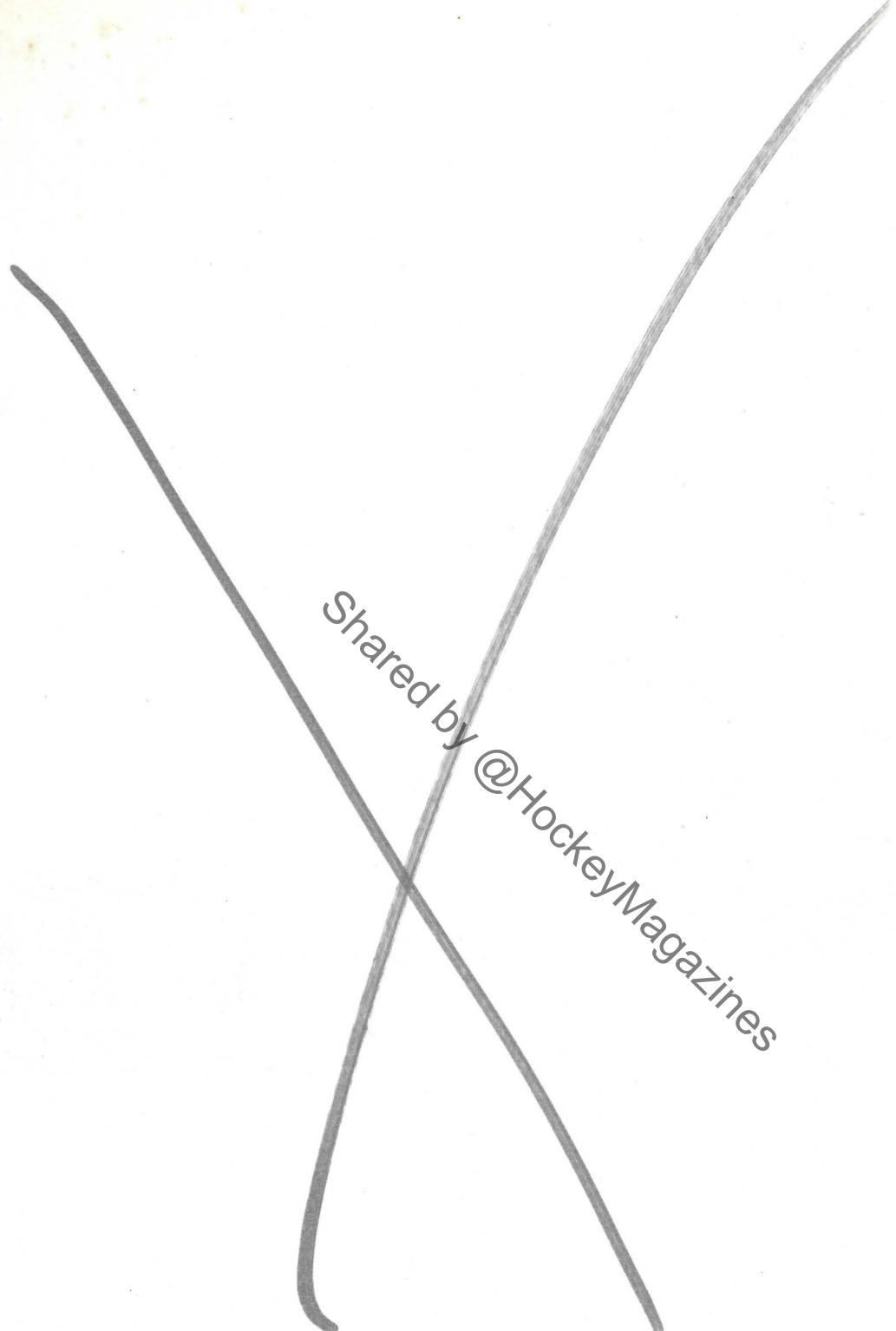
The CHAMPION BRUINS

STANLEY CUP WINNERS



by Stan Fischler

Photography by Baliotti / Rush

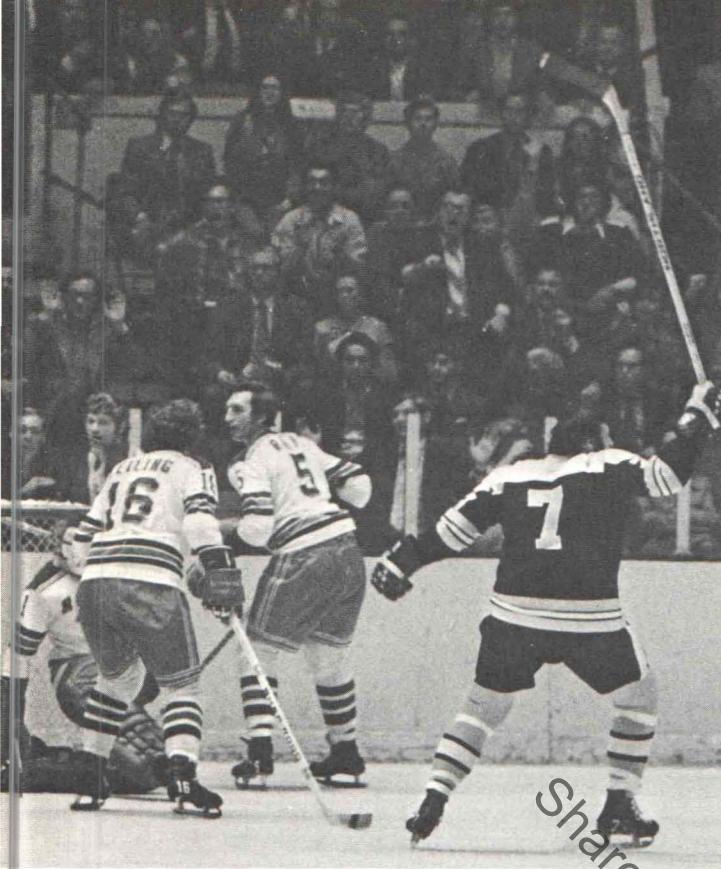


Shared by @HockeyMagazines

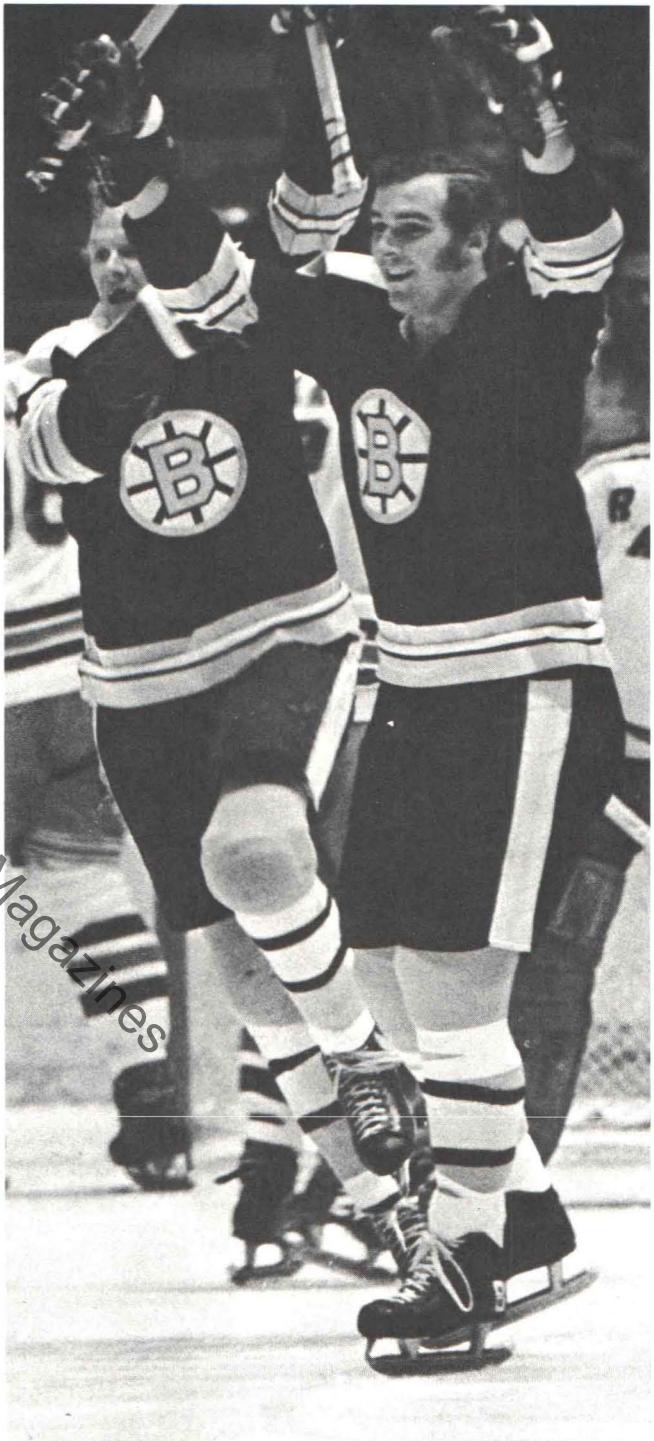
The **CHAMPION BRUINS**

STANLEY CUP WINNERS





Shared by @HockeyMagazines



The **CHAMPION BRUINS**

STANLEY CUP WINNERS

by Stan Fischler

Photography by
Dan Bialiotti / Bob Rush



Shared by
HockeyMagazines

A Stuart L. Daniels Book

PRENTICE-HALL, INC.
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

THE CHAMPION BRUINS
Stanley Cup Winners

by Stan Fischler

Copyright © 1972 by The Stuart L. Daniels
Company, Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be
reproduced in any form or by any means, except
for the inclusion of brief quotations in a review,
without permission in writing from the publisher.

Published by
Prentice-Hall, Inc.
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

Printed in the United States of America • T
Prentice-Hall International, Inc., London
Prentice-Hall of Australia, Pty. Ltd., Sydney
Prentice-Hall of Canada, Ltd., Toronto
Prentice-Hall of India Private Ltd., New Delhi
Prentice-Hall of Japan, Inc., Tokyo

Library of Congress Catalog Card Number: 72-7617

ISBN: 0-13-126607-1 (paperbound)

ISBN: 0-13-126615-2 (hardbound)

Dedication

To a terrific inspirational line up—
Shirley, Benjamin, Molly, Joetta,
Chuck, Chazy, Sybil, and Max.

Acknowledgments

The author wishes to thank Michael Rubin,
Nancy Demmon, and Amy Newman, who helped
so much in the preparation of this book.





the champions

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

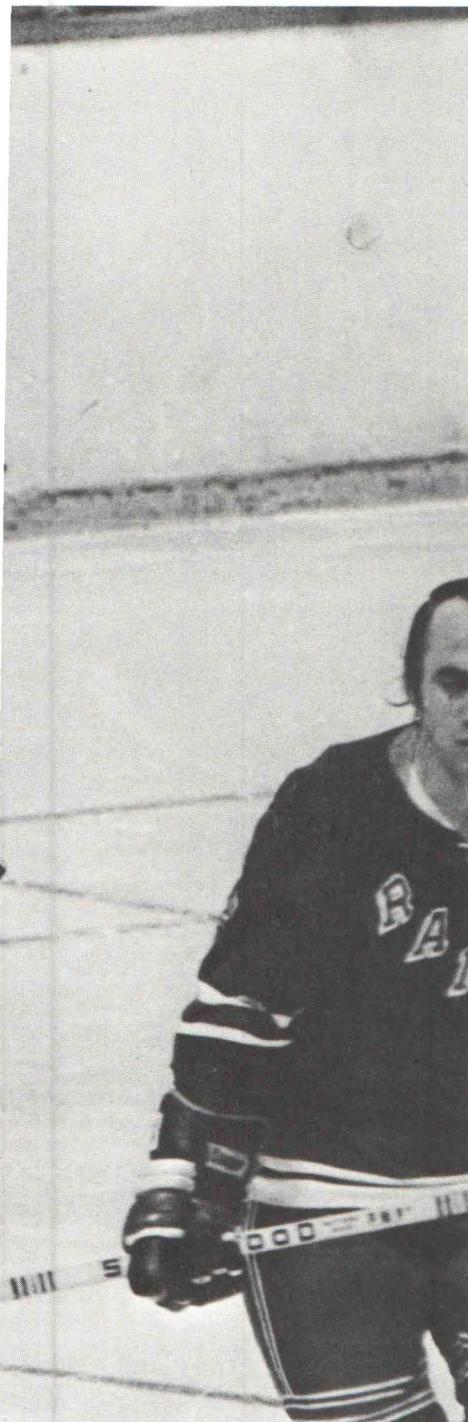
There are those who believe that the 1972 Stanley Cup winning Boston Bruins was the greatest hockey team ever iced. It boasted the most prolific scorer in the history of the game in Phil Esposito, the most accomplished high scoring defenseman in Bobby Orr and a well-balanced lineup that frequently featured goals by third-stringers when they were most needed.

The Bruins probably had the best group of players ever assembled. It was a great team because it won the big games and it also won big games on the road.

However, the fates that rule the game of hockey are fickle and the team taking aim at future Stanley Cups is not the team of the past.



Without doubt, Esposito is a great hockey player who plays the game both ways. He kills penalties and then, stopped from scoring, he'll give the puck to someone else who scores.



What is in store for the Bruins in the years ahead? Certainly, the future has to be rosy with Orr and Esposito in the lineup. Without doubt, Esposito is a great hockey player who plays the game both ways. He kills penalties and, then, stopped from scoring, he'll give the puck to someone else who scores. As for Bobby Orr, everything good there is to say about a hockey player has already been said.

Yet, two men, no matter how outstanding, cannot carry a hockey club. Dependable Eddie Westfall was captured by the New York Islanders in the 1972 expansion draft while Gerry Cheevers, Derek Sanderson, Johnny McKenzie and Ted Green departed in the bitter war with the World Hockey Association.

In a sense this might have been a blessing. Suddenly, openings developed for rugged young stickhandlers such as Ace Bailey and Don Marcotte who had displayed promise in the previous two years on the front line. The addition of Carol Vadnais on defense has bolstered the blue line corps.

As coach Johnson has said, "It was the way guys like Bailey and Marcotte came up with game-winning goals that proved to be a key asset for our club." And asset it may well be in the games ahead.

Goalie Ed Johnston who carried the netminding burdens has excellent credentials. His fellow goalie Gerry Cheevers felt that it was Eddie who made the turning-point save against the Rangers in the 1972 series, by beating Vic Hadfield late in the second period of the fourth game.

Whether the Johnstons, Cashmans, Hodges and Stanfields can continue to do it with Orr and Esposito remains a question to be answered in the months and years ahead. The Bruins, however, are the champions and will not give up the Cup without a fight.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

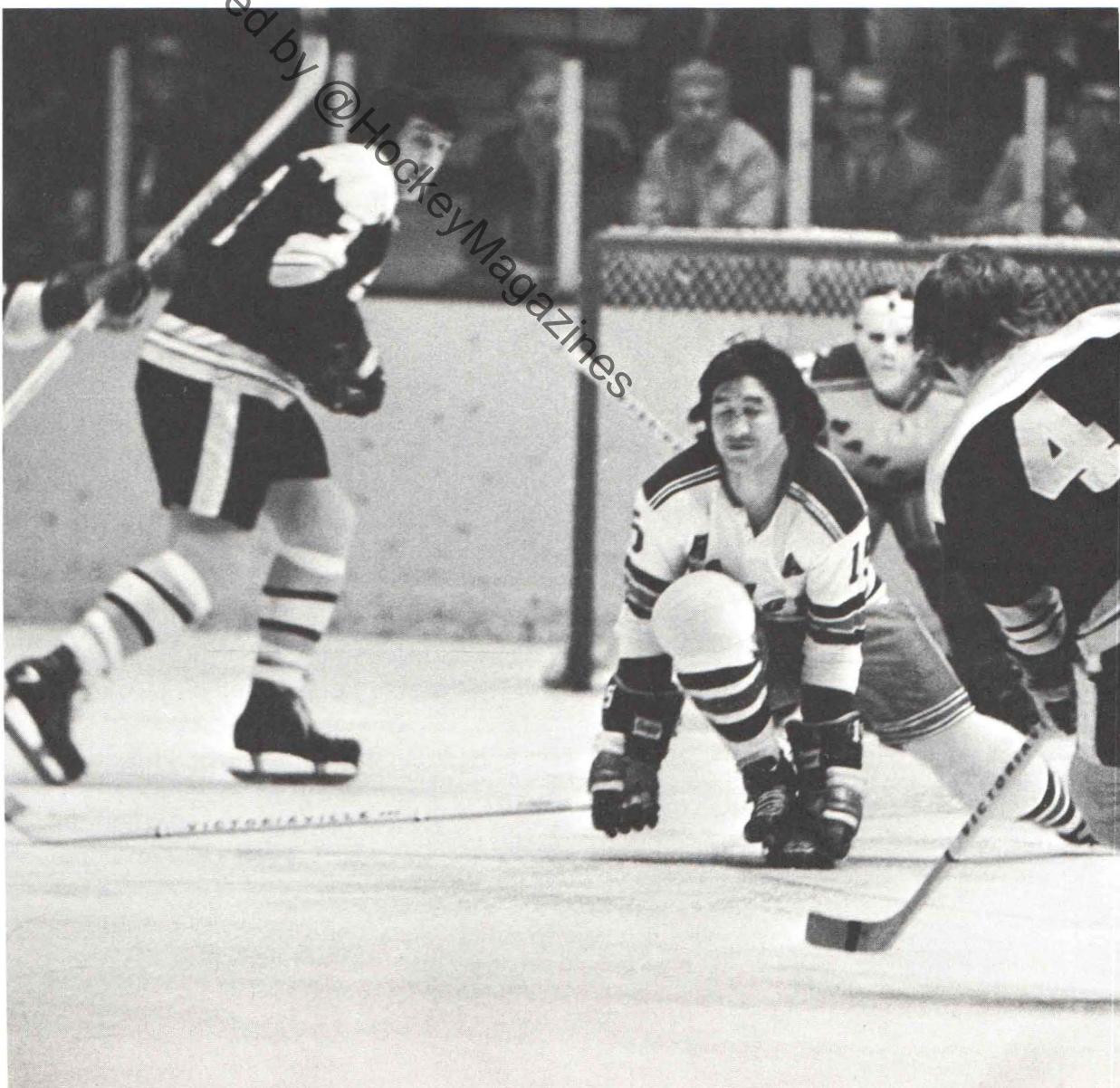
season of triumph

Shared by @HockeyMagazine

“Whenever we get careless,” a member of the Boston Bruins remarked before the start of the 1971-72 season, “there’s always the spectre of April 1971 to put us back on the right track.”

April 1971 is a black month in the history of Boston hockey. That was when the heavily-favored Bruins were dispatched from the first round of the Stanley Cup playoffs by the upstart Montreal Canadiens and their rookie goalie Ken Dryden. It was an upset that was not supposed to happen; yet it did. Now the Bruins had a whole new season in which to make amends.

It would not be easy. To begin with, the Stanley Cup champion Canadiens would deliver an emphatic challenge and then there was the improved and determined New York Rangers, Boston’s traditional rivals.



The Rangers Win the First

The teams opened their battle on October 10, 1971 at Boston Garden and the Bruins were surprised by a 4-1 Ranger win. Obviously, coach Tom Johnson's club was not playing its game. "We weren't hitting," said Johnny McKenzie, "and we let them roam free."

The Rangers had already gained a psychological edge and there were those who wondered whether the Bruins were still reeling from their playoff holocaust. The answer to this vital question which would eventually decide the final standings was supplied when the teams next collided in Madison Square Garden on October 13th.

A victory for the Rangers could have convinced them—and the Bruins—that the October 10th Boston Garden adventure was not a fluke. It might seriously impair the Boston sextet's confidence in its ability to handle the well-balanced New Yorkers.

Fortified with All-Star defenseman Brad Park and crack center Jean Ratelle, the Rangers believed they would be able to counteract the one-two punch of Bobby Orr and Phil Esposito.

It wasn't to be. From the opening face-off, the Bruins skated ~~much~~ better than the neutralized New Yorkers and, naturally, Orr orchestrated the attack—and defense. In fact, ~~everything~~!

"Bobby can skate circles around me," said Park. "Because of his speed, he's always got that extra split second to do something special with the puck."

Rangers defensive forward Glen Sather who was assigned to disrupt Orr, couldn't summon adequate adjectives to describe Boston's ace. "He doesn't beat you because he's Bobby Orr," Sather said. "He beats you because he's the best. If he came out in disguise with a wig on his head and different numbers on his back, he'd still beat you."

Phil Esposito and Bobby Orr drive towards the Ranger goal and Ranger defenseman Jim Neilson isn't where the puck is.



Shared by
Rocky

Francis Praises Orr

Rangers general manager-coach Emile Francis couldn't contain himself. "Orr," said Francis, "is one of the greatest players our game has ever seen."

The New York men seemed to realize that as long as Orr skated for Boston the Rangers were dead. And they were correct in their assessment.

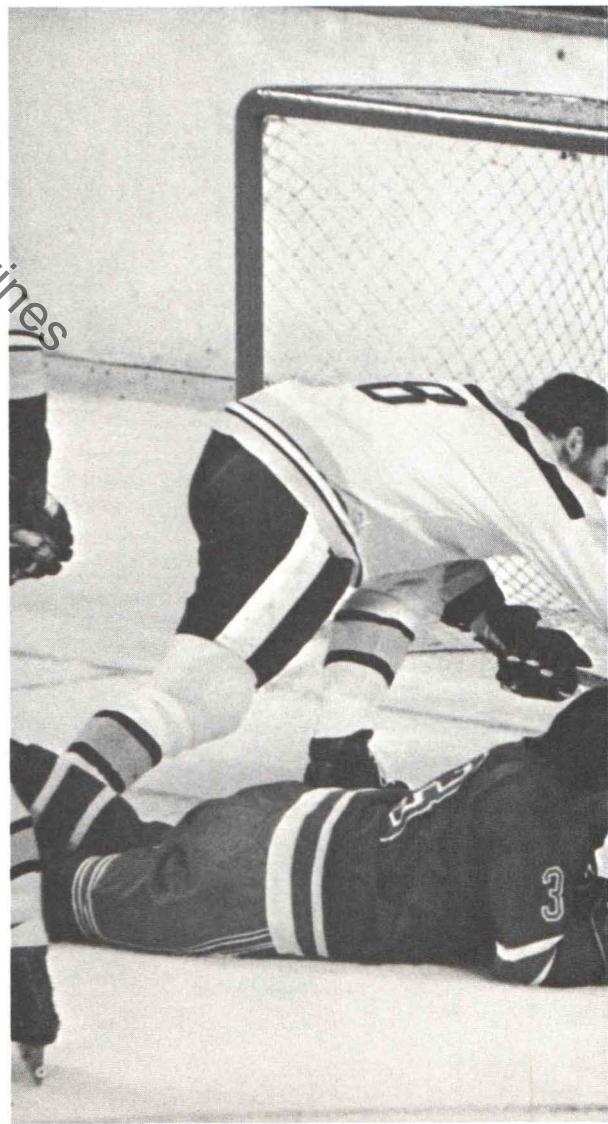
Not only did the Rangers fail to win another regular season game from the Bruins, they rarely came close. On December 16th the Rangers were more or less chased out of Boston Garden, 8-1. In New York on January 2, 1972, Boston prevailed, 4-1. Back at Madison Square Garden again on February 2nd, the Bruins repulsed the Rangers best effort and shut out the New Yorkers, 2-0. The regular season series between the teams ended on March 23rd in the Hub with the Bruins on top, 4-1. "Let's face it," said goalie Ed Johnston, "every big game we had, we won."

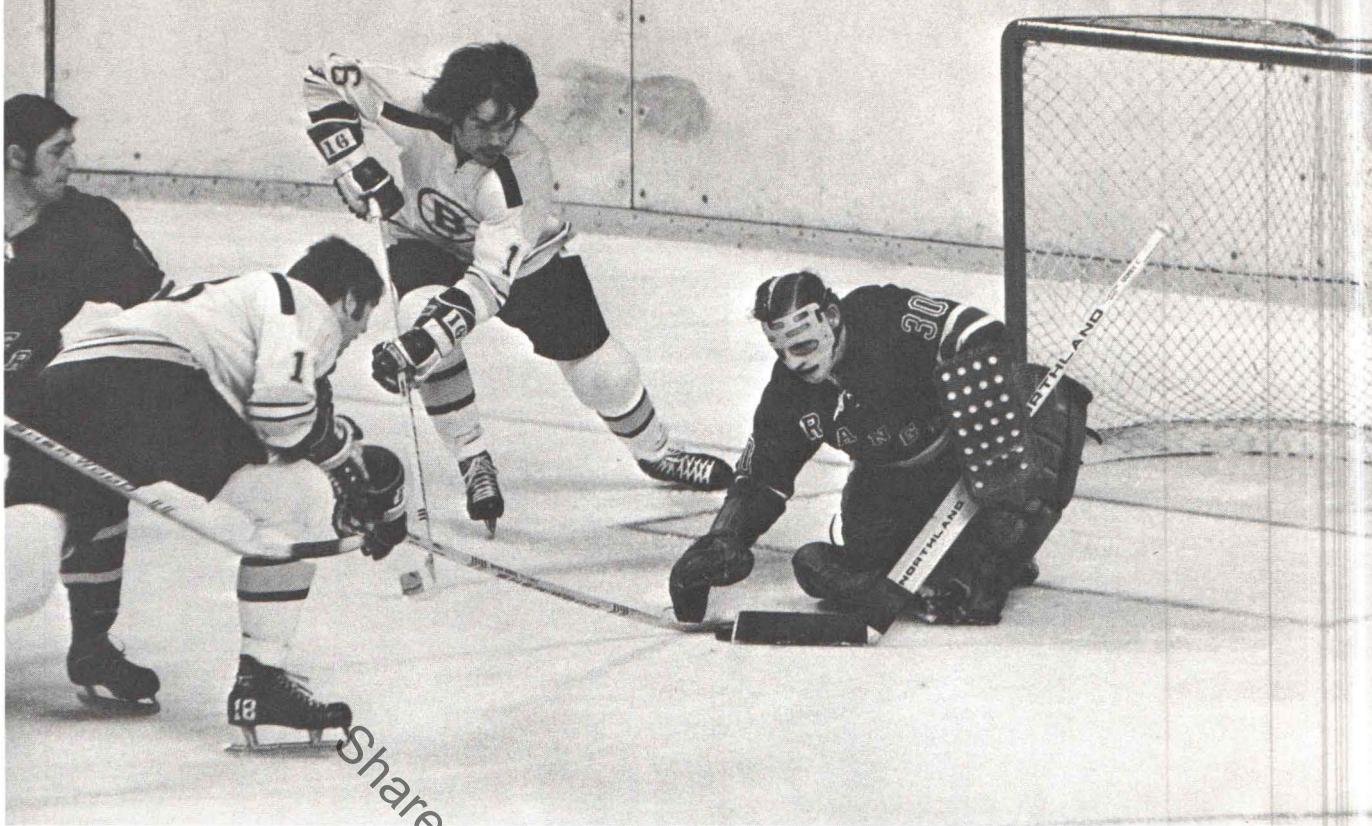
But they had to win more than just their games against the Rangers. During the first half of the schedule Boston failed to pull away from the Broadway Blueshirts in the standings. It was primarily a matter of coordinating their attack as well as compensating for the loss of their defenseman Don Awrey who was hospitalized with a leg injury. However, by mid-season coach Tom Johnson had fitted all the pieces into place and the Rangers were left behind and stayed in second place.

A Really Great Team

The Bruins were now a really great team. It was a great team not only because of Orr and Esposito but even more important, it had depth. For example, Dallas Smith, even though overshadowed by Bobby Orr, was an extremely able defenseman.

Another essential cog was goliath right wing Ken Hodge, who did the heavy work for Phil Esposito in the corners. Hodge missed 20 games with an ankle injury but returned to top form in the homestretch after some discouraging near-misses around the goalmouth.





A hulking six foot one, 216 pounds, Hodge epitomizes the burly, contemporary Bruins who maraud over the opposition. "He's very big, and strong and rough," says Montreal Canadiens coach, Scotty Bowman. "He's got lots of room when he comes in over the blue line. That's the big feature of his line with Esposito and Wayne Cashman. They just barge into your zone and defy you to do anything with them."

Overconfidence?

Once the Bruins had established their superiority over the Rangers and clamped a lock on first place in the East Division their prime handicap could be overconfidence. As attested by Derek Sanderson's statement that "We have difficulty getting 'up' for games against Buffalo and Vancouver."

As a result, Boston was occasionally derailed in most unusual fashion from time to time. Typical was an 8-2 defeat hung on the Bruins by the lowly Buffalo Sabres; a game which snapped a seven-game winless situation for the Sabres and ended a six-game Bruins winning streak.

Coach Johnson took immediate steps to isolate the basis of such complacency.

He informed one and all, "You can never be satisfied in this game and you can never feel really comfortable, because that's when things start happening to you. If we keep playing our game, we should win everything this year."



Rod Gilbert swerves past a determined poke check.





Shared by @*hockeymagazine*

The Prince of Wales Trophy

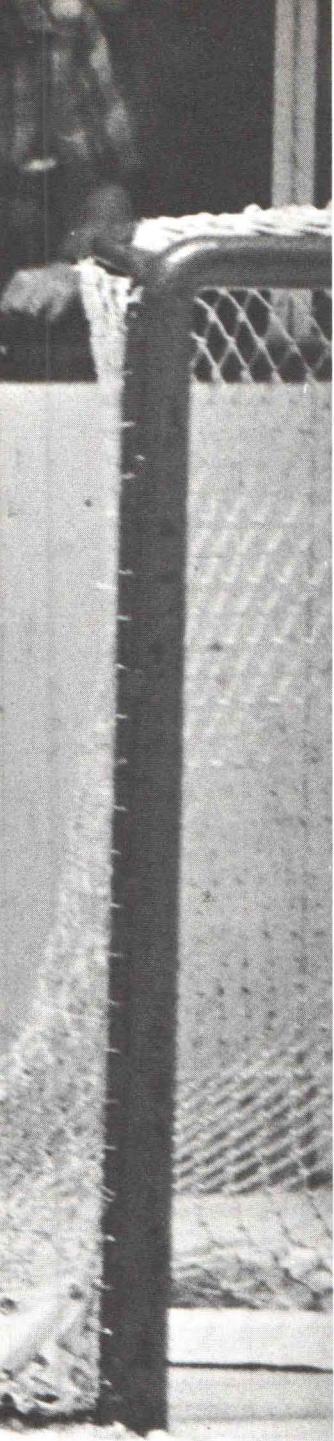
Heeding their coach's advice, the Bruins pulled so far ahead of the second-place Rangers that the battle for the Prince of Wales Trophy (awarded to the first-place winner in the East Division) became academic and something less than pulsating.

"If the race ~~had~~ been close," said Phil Esposito, "it would have been different. Remember how it was a couple of years ago when Chicago beat us out on the last day of the season—how we all hung around the radio listening to the end of that game. But this clinching of the division title had been pretty much inevitable."

Equally inevitable was Esposito's finish atop the scoring race. The deft center accumulated 66 goals and 67 assists for 133 points. He was followed by Bobby Orr who compiled an amazing 37 goals and 80 assists for 117 points. Amazing in many ways, especially for a defenseman. The Bruins lead over New York at season's end was a comfortable 10 points. They entered the Stanley Cup playoffs determined to erase the ignominy of 1971.



Bobby Orr continues to be a major factor in the success of the Bruins.



the road to the cup

Shared by @HockeyMagazine

Each Bruin realized that winning the Prince of Wales Trophy was only one step toward the Stanley Cup, although a most impressive step. But the knowledgeable and demanding Boston fans wanted more than that and the applause that accompanied the first place finish was as fragile as the next defeat.

"All that cheering can turn the other way when you're not playing well," warned coach Johnson. "We've got a great team but the better we play, the more perfection the people want. I've seen teams get nervous playing at home simply because they're afraid to do poorly. They have to get on the road before they can loosen up. I know some of our guys get nervous playing at home."

Then before the 1972 Stanley Cup playoffs actually began, Bruins' right wing Johnny McKenzie once again reminded one and all that the Boston sextet still felt the sting of their 1971 upset defeat at the hands of Montreal's Canadiens in the opening playoff round.

Toronto First

To reach the gold at the end of hockey's rainbow the Bruins first had to dispose of the fourth-place Toronto Maple Leafs. It seemed an easy enough chore after the first game at Boston Garden. A pair of goals by Phil Esposito and singles from McKenzie, Don Marcotte and Fred Stanfield provided the Bruins with an easy 5-0 victory.

The Leafs, however, were not about to play dead. They spotted Boston a two-goal lead in the second match at Boston Garden and then regrouped to tie the score, 3-3, sending the teams into sudden-death overtime.

Less than three minutes of the overtime had elapsed when big Toronto center Jim Harrison powered a shot past goalie Gerry Cheevers. The Leafs had tied the series at one apiece. "It was," said former Bruins coach Harry Sinden, "one of the finest comebacks and major upsets in Stanley Cup play."

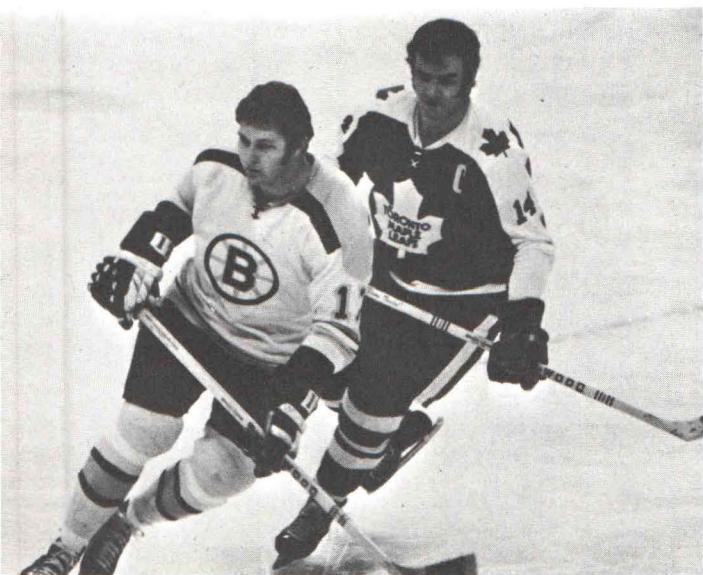
Stunned to the core, the Bruins now had to contend with two consecutive games on hostile Maple Leaf Gardens ice. The pivotal third contest was a defensive classic that remained tied, 0-0, until the 18 minute mark of the second period. Darryl Sittler of Toronto took a minor penalty for holding Bobby Orr and Coach Tom Johnson promptly sent his power play specialists onto the ice. Within five seconds Orr passed the puck to Mike Walton who blazed a shot past goalie Bernie Parent. Orr scored the game's second and last goal early in the third period and the Bruins big machine was revved up once more.

Paced by Ken Hodge's pair of goals in the third period, Boston won the fourth game, 5-4, leaving Toronto staggering on the ropes. The Leafs fought bravely and well in the fifth game, holding Boston to a 2-2 draw as late as seven minutes of the third period. Finally, the Bruins power prevailed. Hodge shot a ten-foot drive past Parent to put Boston ahead to stay. "I got the puck," said Hodge, "and just rammed it as hard as I could. There was some tremendous passing by Wayne Cashman and Phil Esposito and Parent didn't react as quickly as he had been doing earlier in the game."



*Big Ken Hodge camped in front of the
Toronto goal.*

Shared by @HockeyMagazines





Shared by @HockeyMagazines



*It doesn't pay to fool with Ken Hodge (8)
as the Toronto Maple Leafs discover.*



Norm Ullman of the Maple Leafs foiled by the Bruins defense.

The opening round Stanley Cup series between the Bruins and Toronto Maple Leafs started out like a breeze for the Bostonians, turned into a brief disaster and finally resolved itself into a well-contested battle in which the stronger skaters from the Hub ultimately prevailed in five games.

In the first game at Boston Garden, the Bruins romped to a 5-0 win. Jim Harrison's sudden-death goal in the second match provided Toronto with a 4-3 upset triumph. But when the teams returned to Canada, the Bruins won the next two games at Maple Leaf Gardens, 2-0 and 5-4, setting the stage for game five at Boston Garden.

To their credit, the fourth-place Maple Leafs made a game of it but in the end, it was the Bruins who sent the Boston Garden audience home happy as the men of Tom Johnson won the game and the series which catapulted them up against the St. Louis Blues in the second playoff round.

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

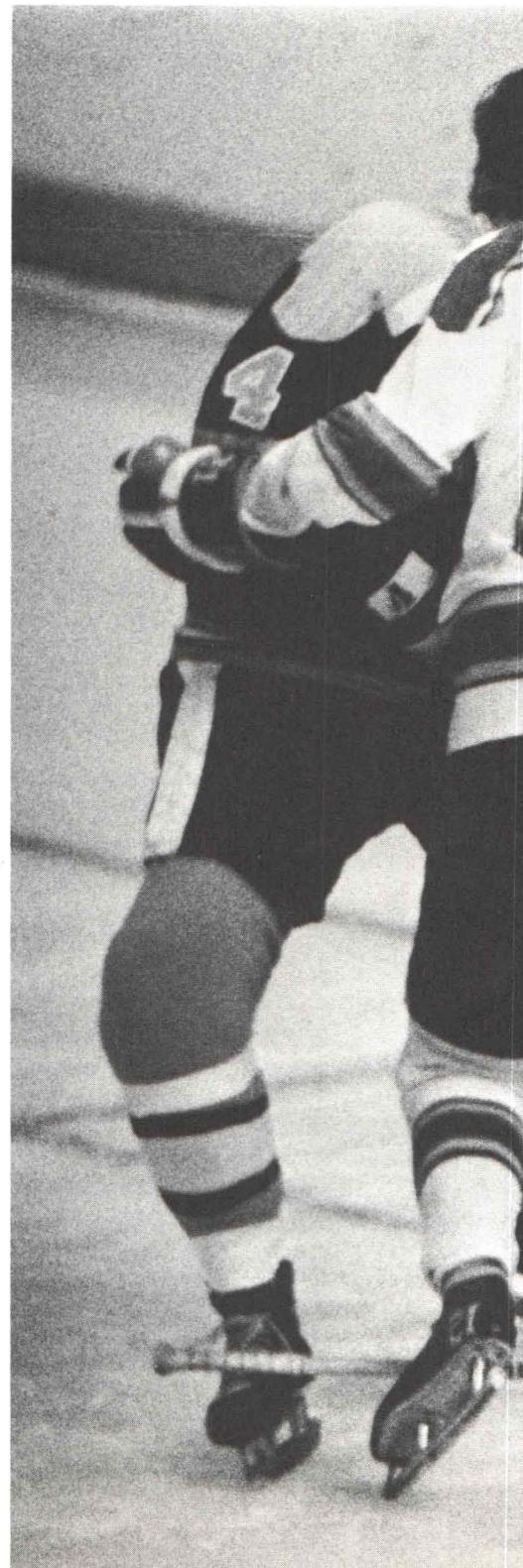
Now St. Louis

With Toronto out of the way, coach Tom Johnson's sextet were now confronted with the St. Louis Blues, a club which traditionally had been easy pickings for Boston. This series was to be no different.

The Bruins won the first two games on home ice, 6-1 and 10-2, and made the West Division team look like a collection of minor leaguers. "I think our young team is awed by the Bruins," said St. Louis coach Al Arbour. "We're playing in a trance. We're mesmerized. We see Orr and Esposito and Bucyk and the rest of them out there and we wonder what we're doing playing on the same ice with them."

Skating on their home ice, the Blues lost 7-2 in the third game. St. Louis made a battle of it in the fourth game although they never managed to take the lead. When the final buzzer sounded Boston was on top, 5-3, with a record Stanley Cup total of 28 goals for a four-game sweep.

That was all well and good but the Bruins, to a man, were pointing to the finals and their arch enemies, the New York Rangers. "None of us want another Summer like 1971," said McKenzie on the eve of the first game against the men from Manhattan.



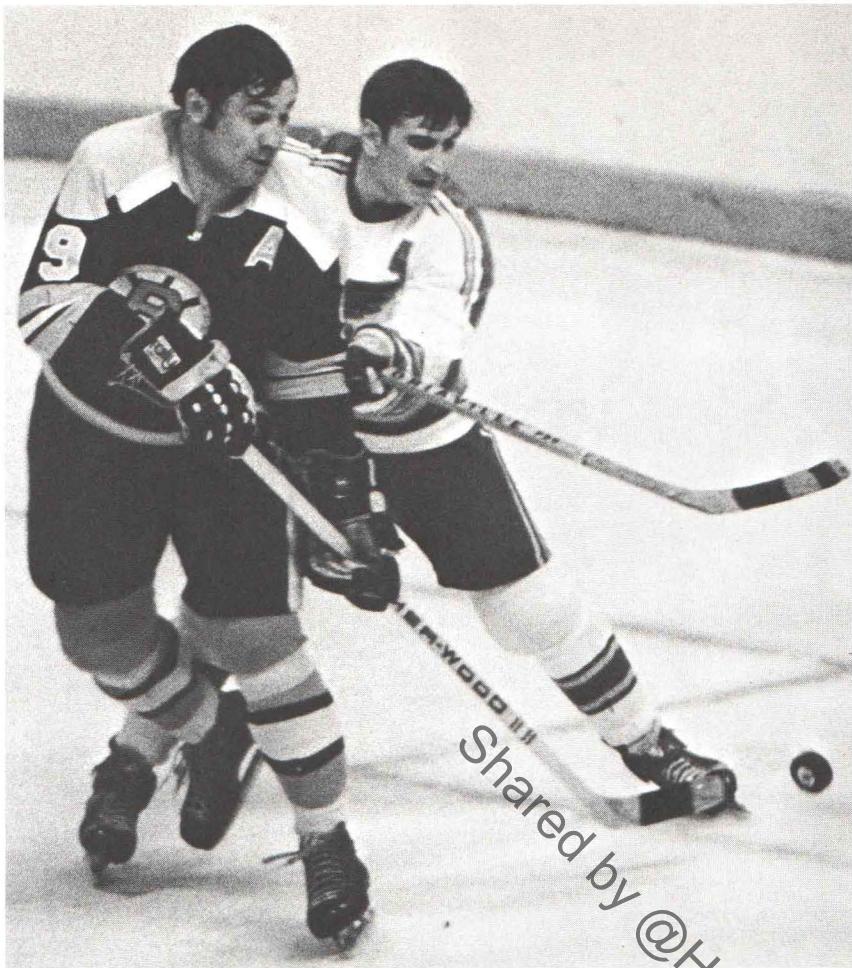
Stopped by Orr.





Shared by @HockeyMagazines

Rough, tough Wayne Cashman.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

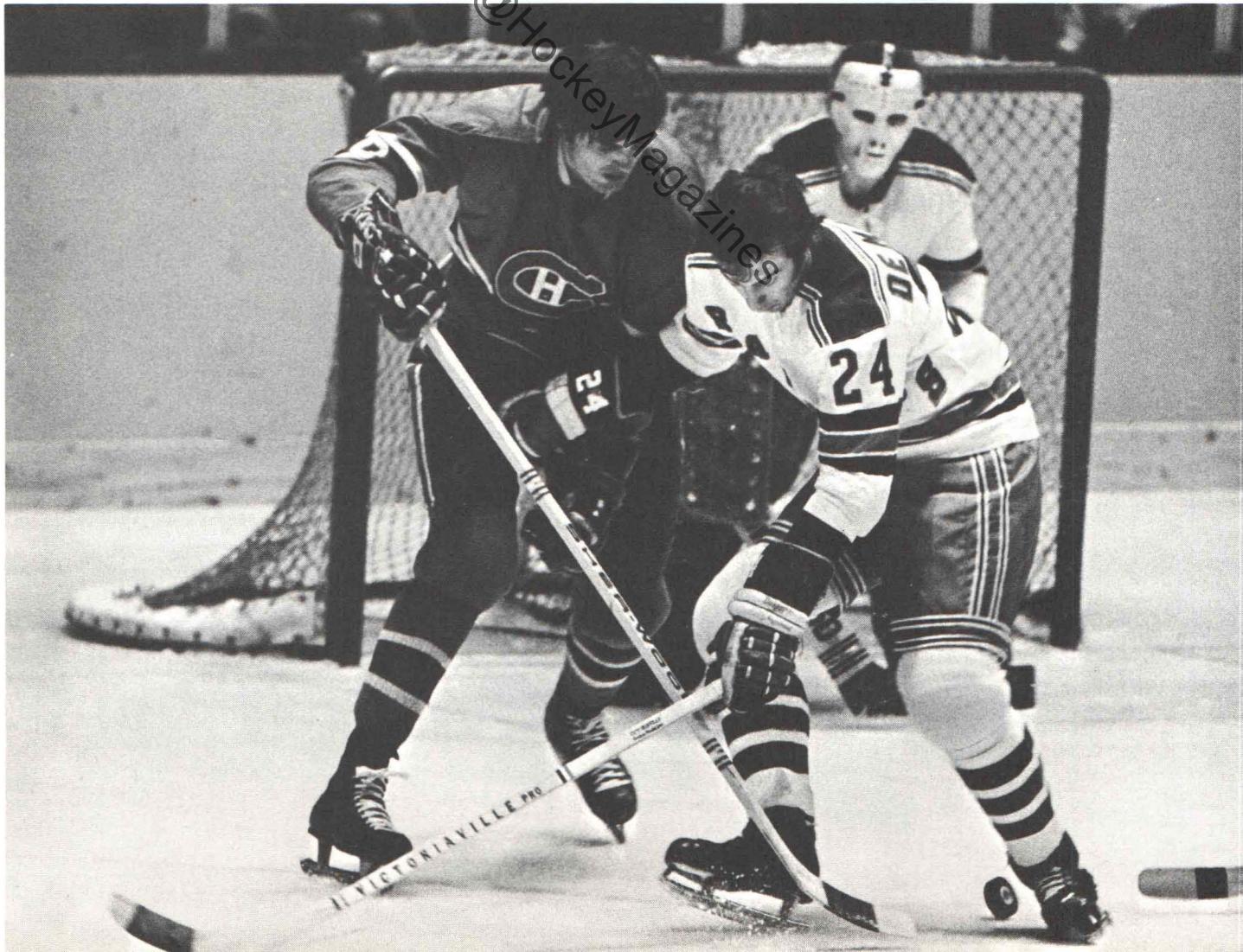
Phil Roberto of St. Louis slides into the net but the puck doesn't.



While the Bruins were taking the measure of the Toronto Maple Leafs and St. Louis Blues, their arch-foe, the New York Rangers were going up first against the Montreal Canadiens and then the Chicago Black Hawks.

The defending Stanley Cup champion Canadiens were expected to take the Rangers the limit but Emile Francis's sextet eliminated Montreal in six games and seemingly with enormous ease.

Shared by @HockeyMagazines





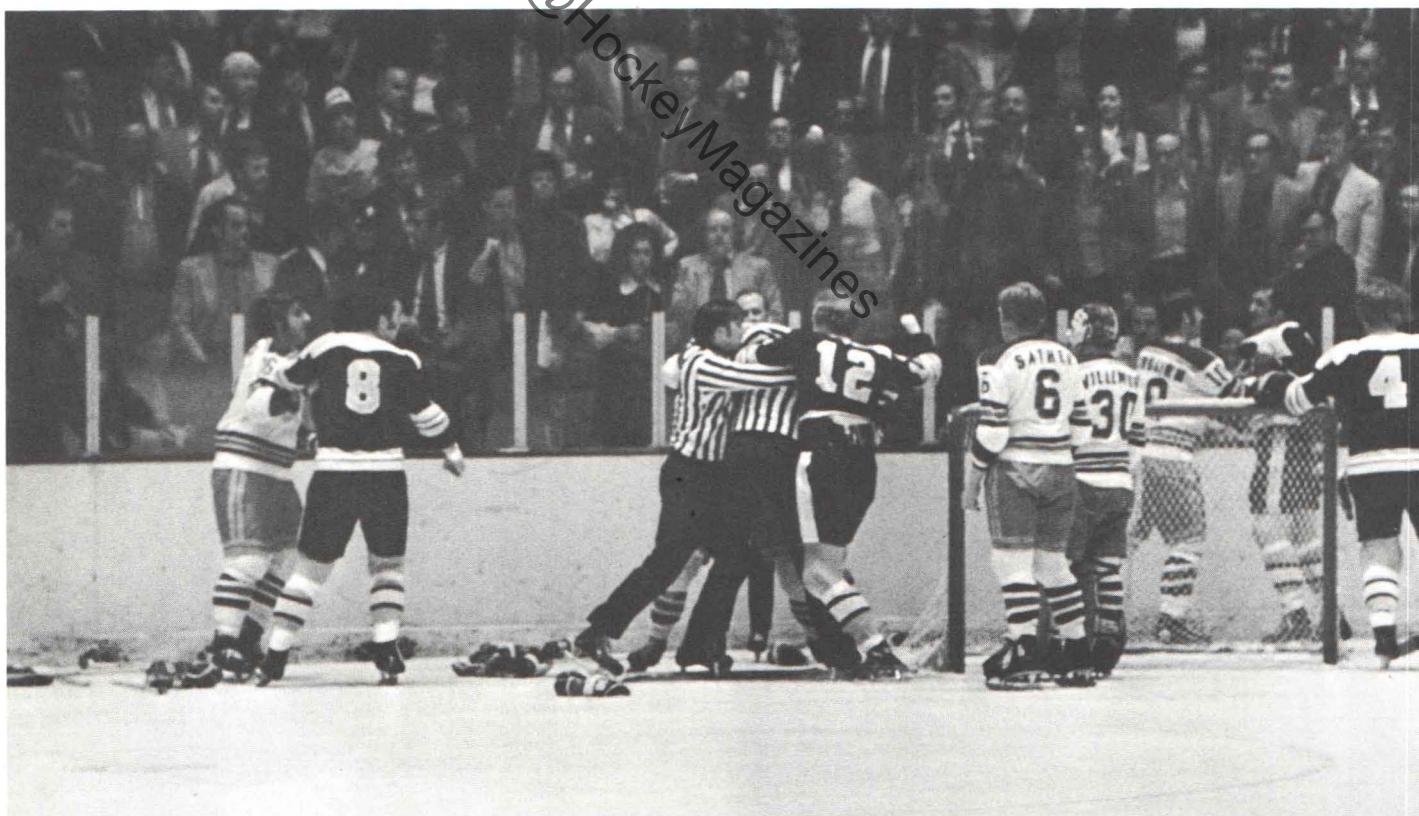
Shared by @HockeyMagazine

Moving into the second playoff round, the New Yorkers were confronted by the West Division leaders, the Black Hawks. Armed with heavy shooters such as Bobby and Dennis Hull, Stan Mikita and Pit Martin, the Hawks were believed to be at least the equals of the Rangers.

However, neither the goaltending of Tony Esposito—Phil's kid brother—or the defense work of Pat Stapleton, Doug Jarrett, Keith Magnuson and Bill White could halt the onrushing Rangers. New York swept the series in four straight games, qualifying to meet the Bruins in the 1972 finals.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines



the heritage of hate

Shared by @HockeyMagazine

It was a typical old-time game between the Boston Bruins and the New York Rangers before World War II erupted.

Eddie Shore of the Bruins massaged Phil Watson's neck with his stick. Murray Patrick rushed to Watson's aid and attempted to pull Shore off his buddy. Shore swung at Patrick, but Patrick, a former Canadian heavyweight champion, retaliated and clobbered the Boston defenseman about the face.

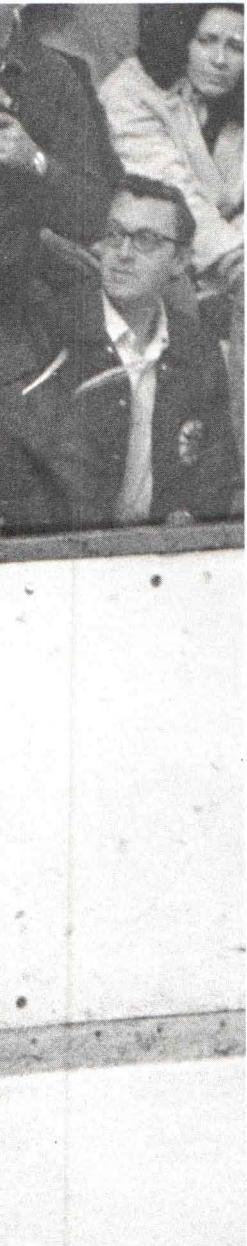
"I could feel his head squash when I hit him," said Patrick.

So the blood flowed on that night in the 1939 playoffs as it had earlier, and later, and no doubt as it will continue to flow whenever Boston and New York meet.

The Patrick-Shore clash is symbolic in essence because the rivalry between the Bruins and Rangers has been alternately bloody and beautiful; amusing and acidic; but most of all, never dull.



In the thick of it. Pete Stemkowski seems to be doing double duty as he pins Ace Bailey.



Psychological As Well As Physical

Like any rivalry, the roots of the New York-Boston bitterness is based on both psychological and physical factors. Of the two teams, Boston was first on the National Hockey League scene in 1924. New York arrived two years later. However, the Rangers opened in spanking new Madison Square Garden while the Bruins were playing in the small Boston Arena.

When the Bruins did get a new home, it was named, in a classic burst of non-originality, Boston Madison Square Garden. Opening night in each city offered superb contrasts in style.

When hockey made its debut in New York's arena (Americans vs. Canadiens), pomp and circumstance were the order of the day. The event was garnished with black ties, high hats, a marching band and the "creme de la creme" of high society.

When the new Boston Madison Square Garden opened on November 20, 1928, the scene might have been out of the script of "Marat Sade." An estimated 17,500 persons crashed through the gates to fill the fewer than 15,000 seats.

"It was a riot, a mob scene," commented a writer for the Boston Herald, "a re-enactment of the assault on the Bastille."

An hour after the game began, the fans were in an uproar. When referee George Mallinson whistled a play against the Bruins, several in the audience riddled the ice with assorted garbage.

A Pattern Established

To a great extent the boisterous air of those opening years has set the pattern for the Boston team and its devoted fans.

As one discerning hockey observer has said, "They seem to take as much pleasure out of knocking someone down as in scoring a goal. The Bruins have played the game with a joy-through-brawling that is as Boston Irish as a last hurrah."

It is as true today as it was when Eddie Shore marauded across NHL rinks. During the 1971-72 season, for example, Boston forward Wayne Cashman was involved in so vicious a stick-swinging duel with Dennis Hextall of Minnesota that Boston fans flooded their newspapers with letters in protest over Cashman's behavior.

"The guy," said Hextall, "used his stick on me like an ax."

In the third game of the Boston-St. Louis 1972 playoff series, Johnny McKenzie of the Bruins was captured in one of the most gruesome sports photographs ever distributed. The photographer caught McKenzie literally hanging Bob Plager of St. Louis. McKenzie's stick was jammed under the Blues' defenseman's jersey.

In contrast, the Rangers are less vicious and more artful. Only two of their skaters, Brad Park and Vic Hadfield, received more than 100 penalty minutes during the regular season while six Bruins surpassed the 100-minute mark.

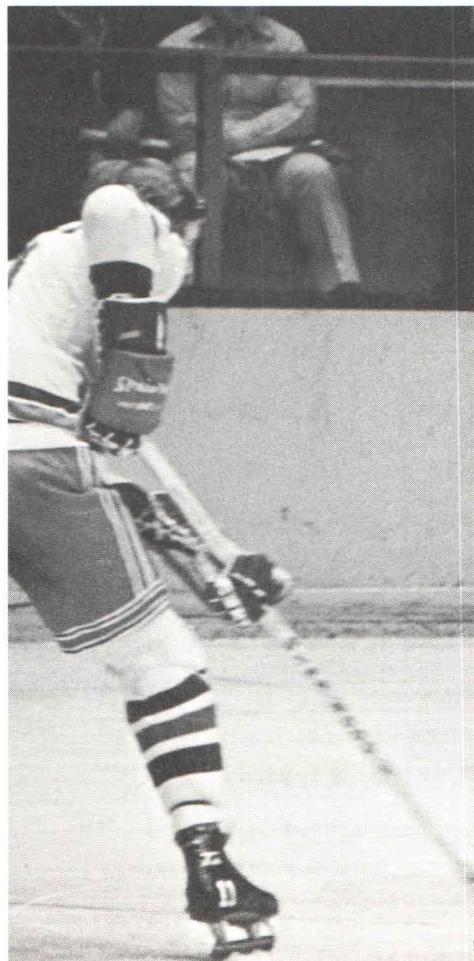
Although Murray Patrick did clobber Eddie Shore that night in 1939, over the years the Bruins have battered the Rangers in enough specific episodes—Milt Schmidt on Edgar Laprade and Wally Hergesheimer; Ted Green on Phil Goyette and Arnie Brown; Bobby Orr on Dave Balon—that a clear picture of which team is tougher has emerged. After all, they're not called "the big, bad Bruins" for nothing.

Boston newscaster Johnny Peirson once outpointed St. Louis broadcaster Gus Kyle when Peirson was a Bruin and Kyle a Ranger. The Peirson ploy was simple; he pulled Kyle's jersey over his head and then bombarded the New Yorker.

In a supremely comic analysis of that bout, today's St. Louis vice-president Lynn Patrick, then the Ranger coach, observed, "What that fight proved was that Kyle not only doesn't know the tricks of the trade, but that our underwear is cleaner than that of the Bruins."

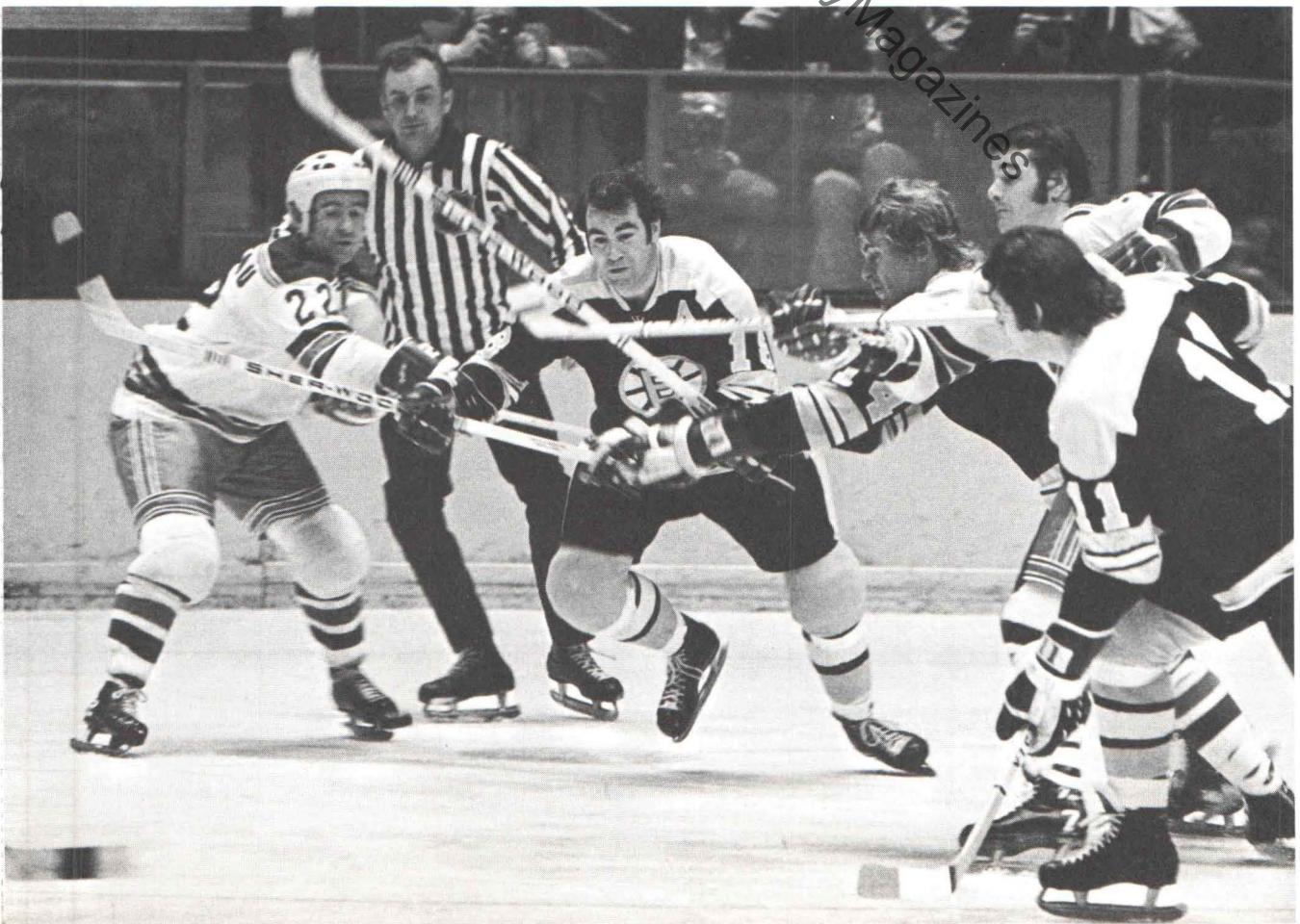
Another time big Boston defenseman Warren Godfrey (Patrick once said he was so bad he'd trip over the blue line) had a fist fight with little Wally Hergesheimer of

Linesman Matt Pavelich drops the puck between Bobby Rousseau and Ed Westfall. It bounds free to be pursued by Westfall, Ace Bailey and Mike Walton, while Vic Hadfield (1) cruises in for the Rangers.



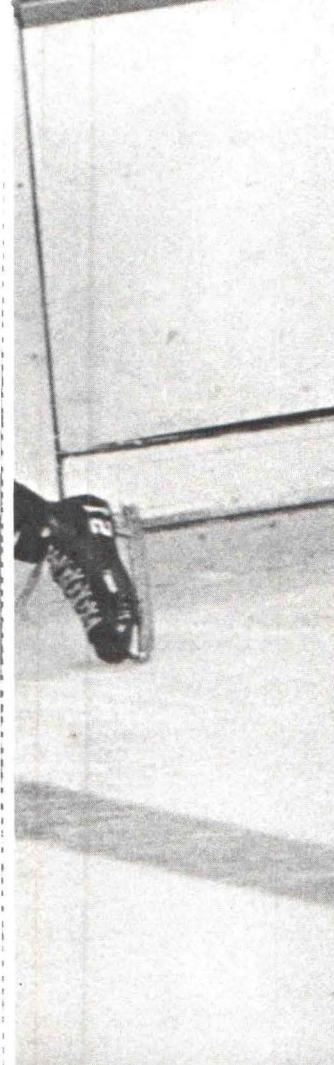


Shared by @HockeyMagazines





Dallas Smith holds off his opponent as the serious action moves down ice.



Shared by @HockeyMad

the Rangers. Wisely, Hergesheimer grabbed Godfrey about the arms and held on for dear life.

"Godfrey was lucky," Hergesheimer said after the fight. "If I had let go and he hit me, I'd have bled all over him."

Keen Competition

The competition between the clubs remained keen throughout the late nineteen twenties and early nineteen thirties. Boston boasted such stars as Shore, Cooney Weiland, Tiny Thompson and Lionel Hitchman. The Rangers had Bill and Bun Cook, Frank Boucher, Ching Johnson and Taffy Abel in the early days.

By the late thirties, Managers Art Ross of Boston and Lester Patrick of New York had built mighty clubs. Shore was still with the Bruins, flanked by the "Kraut Line" of Schmidt, Woody Dumart and Bobby Bauer, and New York matched that with Watson, Lynn Patrick and Bryan Hextall.

Many observers believe the best Boston team of all was molded in 1938-39 when it finished first and won the Stanley Cup. To do so, the Bruins had to whip the Rangers in a terrific opening series.

New York's strategy was to bottle up Bill Cowley, a crafty center, and Roy Conacher, a potent scorer. The plan worked in the opening game, which reached a 1-1 tie in regulation time. After two sudden-death overtime periods, the teams were still deadlocked. Before the third overtime began, Ross altered his plan.

"While they're watching Conacher," he told his men, "feed Mel Hill."

Sudden-Death Hill

It seemed like a strange order, since Hill had scored only 10 goals during the regular season. But late in the third sudden-death, Cowley skimmed a pass to Hill, who shot the puck past New York goalie Davey Kerr, and at 1:10 a.m., the Bruins had a 1-0 lead in the series.

The second game was in Boston and this time the teams were tied, 2-2, when regulation time ended, Apparently, the Rangers weren't wise to Ross' plans because at 8:24 of the first overtime the Bruins again scored, courtesy of Mel Hill.

Boston won the third game, 4-1, but the Rangers rose and captured the next three to tie the series and set the stage for the seventh match on April 2, 1939, in Boston Garden. As expected, it was a gem, another 1-1 tie in regulation time, necessitating sudden-death again.

The clubs once more skated frantically through two more overtimes without a goal. Kerr's replacement, Bert Gardiner, was playing superbly for New York as the clock ticked toward the eight-minute mark of the third overtime.

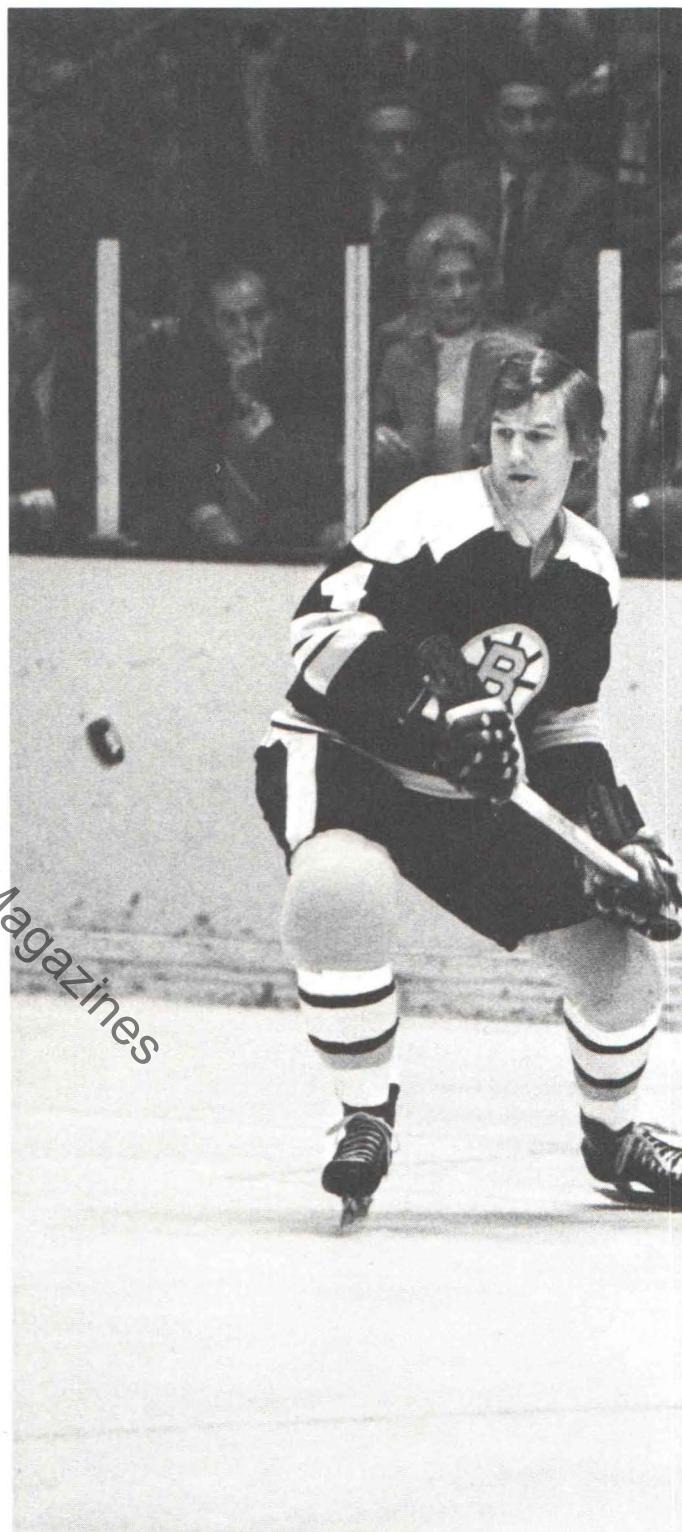
At this point Shore took a routine shot on goal. Gardiner gloved the puck and tossed it to the corner of the rink, hoping that a teammate would skate it down the ice. But Bill Cowley was there first and slid a pass to Hill. Before Gardiner could move, the puck was behind him in the net. Henceforward Hill's nickname was "Sudden Death."

New York obtained a measure of revenge in 1940, the last time the Rangers won the cup. After finishing three points behind first-place Boston, the Rangers rebounded from a 2-1 deficit in games to win the best-of-seven series in six games.

Patrick to Boston

The front-office hostility between the clubs was kindled in 1950 after Lynn Patrick surprisingly coached the Rangers to the seventh game of the Cup finals against Detroit before New York was beaten in double-overtime.

Not long after the season ended, Patrick resigned as Rangers' coach, saying that New York was no place to raise children. On July 1, 1950, he was hired as coach of the Bruins. Even more grating to Ranger fans, Patrick led Boston to a playoff berth, beating out New York by a single point.



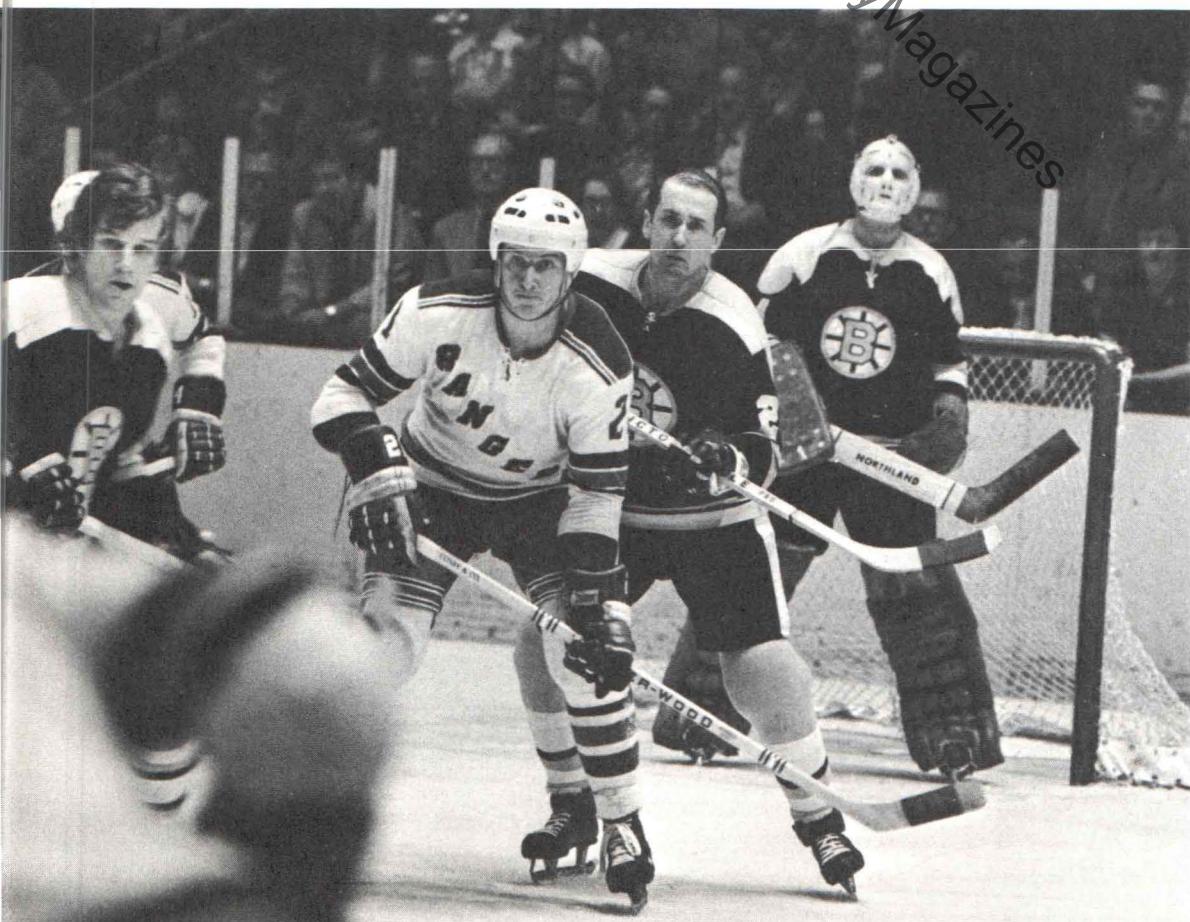


Bobby gets set to stop the puck as it sails through the air.



Phil takes a mighty whack as he gets caught between Rod Seiling's legs.

Alert at the net as a Ranger drives on in.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

Patrick rubbed salt into the Rangers' wounds in 1953-54, the year New York reunited ancient Max and Doug Bentley as linemates with Edgar Laprade. For a time, it appeared that the Rangers, who had not made the playoffs since Patrick had departed, would oust Boston, thanks to Max Bentley's fabulous stickhandling feats.

Patrick remembered that Max was a hypochondriac and, in a late-season game, he advised Bruins' center Cal Gardner to needle Bentley.

"You know," said Gardner when they met on the ice, "you're not looking well at all, Max."

Bentley began thinking, and worrying, and thinking some more. Soon, his game deteriorated and the Bruins swept past New York once more and took the playoff berth.

It wasn't until Phil Watson became coach of the Rangers in 1955 that New York began challenging Boston again. They finally met in the cup semifinals in 1958, which the Bruins won, four games to two, outscoring New York, 28-16.

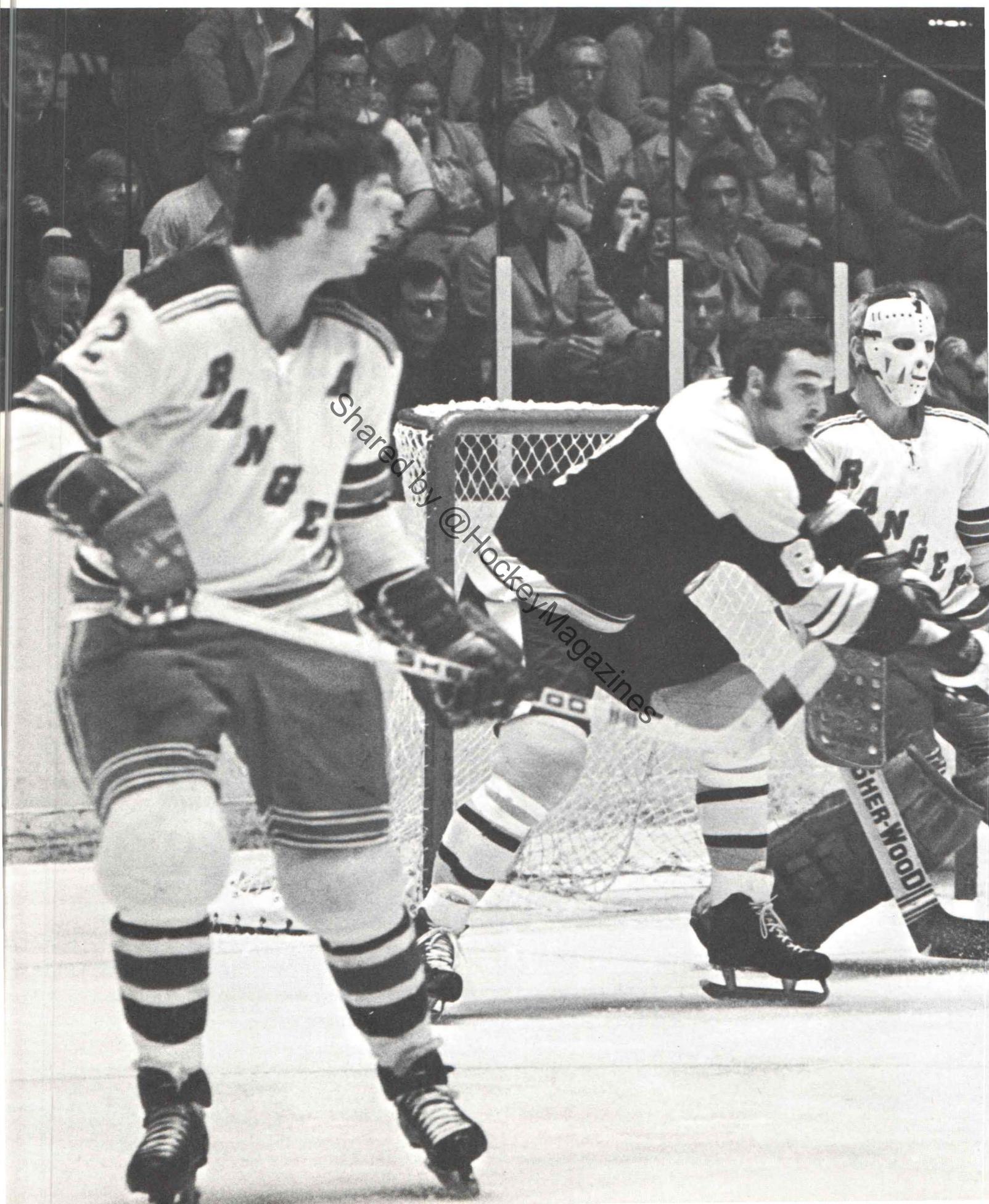
Since then the bitterness between the clubs has intensified. Ted Green and Rangers' President Bill Jennings were catalysts. Green speared Phil Goyette, a non-belligerent Ranger, one night at Madison Square Garden and Jennings called Green "an animal" and suggested that a bounty be placed on his head.

Intense Rivalry

Apparently no Ranger felt up to the challenge and Green continued to devastate the Rangers at his whim until 1972 when he was pulverized by Brad Park at Boston Garden. In the meantime, the Bruins got tougher and tougher, adding beefy types such as Ken Hodge, Wayne Cashman and Don Awrey.

Curiously, one of the most troublesome Boston players to the Rangers was John McKenzie, a nettlesome forward who was obtained from New York in exchange for Reg Fleming, who no longer plays in the NHL. As a Ranger, McKenzie was almost totally peaceloving.

Shared by
SCHUYLER THOMAS





Right Wing Ken Hodge reaches for an oncoming puck.

Another thorn was Derek Sanderson, who fanned the fires by constantly baiting the New Yorkers. A typical Sanderson crack, directed at Rangers' right wing Bill Fairburn was "he'd be nowhere without Walt Tkaczuk, he's a nothing, made by his center."

During the 1970 playoffs between New York and Boston, it was Sanderson who held center ring, alternately battling with Fairbairn, Ed Giacomin and Brad Park. Rangers' G.M. Emile Francis's ambivalent remark about his love-hate relationship with Sanderson was, "I'd like to punch Sanderson in the nose, but he's one helluva hockey player. He's got a mean streak in him, that's nice to have."

Boston whipped New York, four games to two, in that playoff, but only after the injury-decimated Rangers gave the Bruins a run.

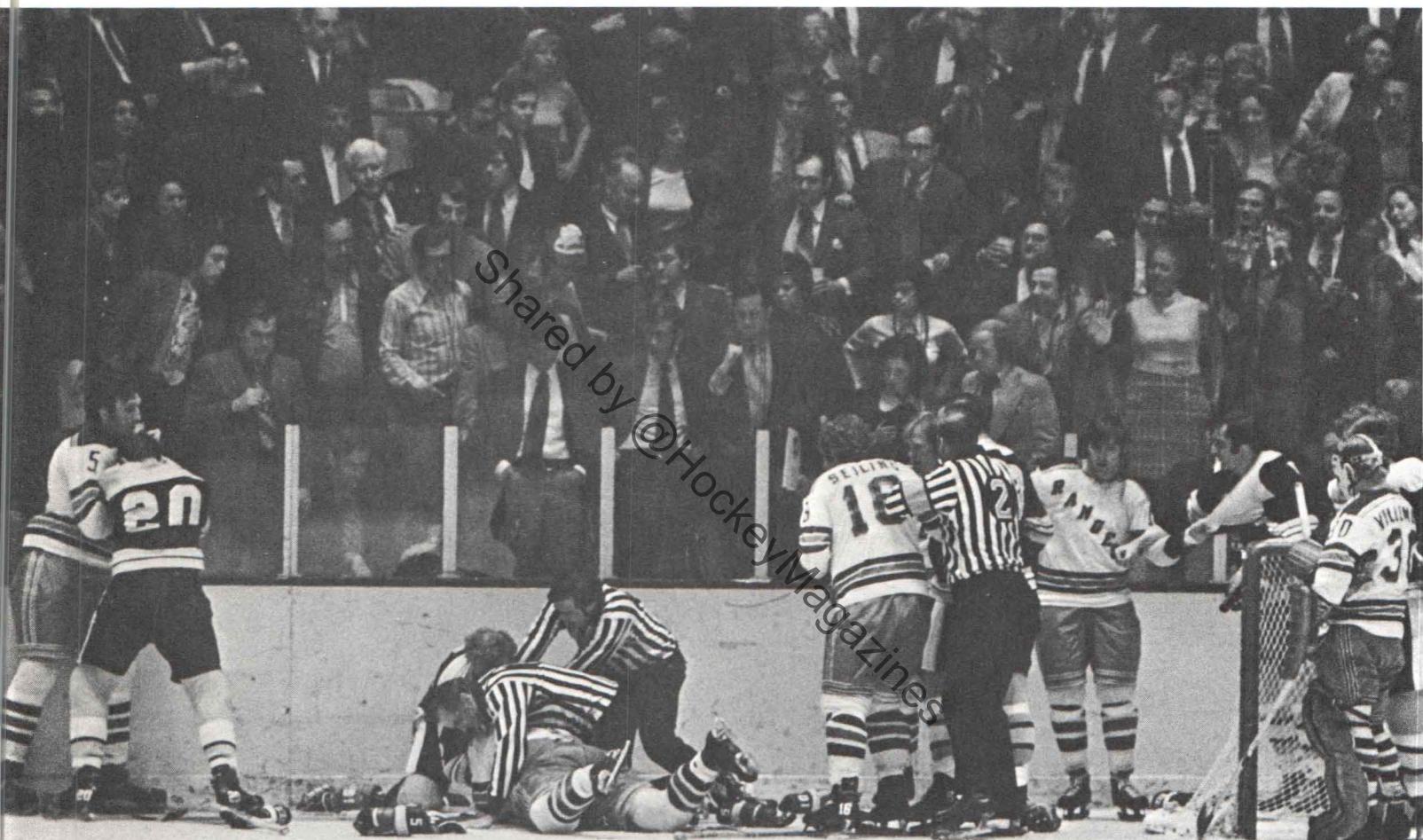
It was a bitter defeat for New York and particularly grated Park, who has since verbally burned several Bruins, particularly Phil Esposito. He has also beaten up Keen and McKenzie twice.

"A war of major proportions has been going on between the two cities," said Esposito, "with a rivalry as intense as any I've ever known."

While the Rangers got the jump on the Bruins in 1971-72 by besting them in Boston Garden the Beantowners retaliated by winning the next five games decisively.

The teams are different, but the hostility is as genuine as it was when Shore fought Patrick and Kyle battled Peirson. When it comes to New York and Boston, these professionals would play each other for nothing just to score a victory.

Shared by
© CJO



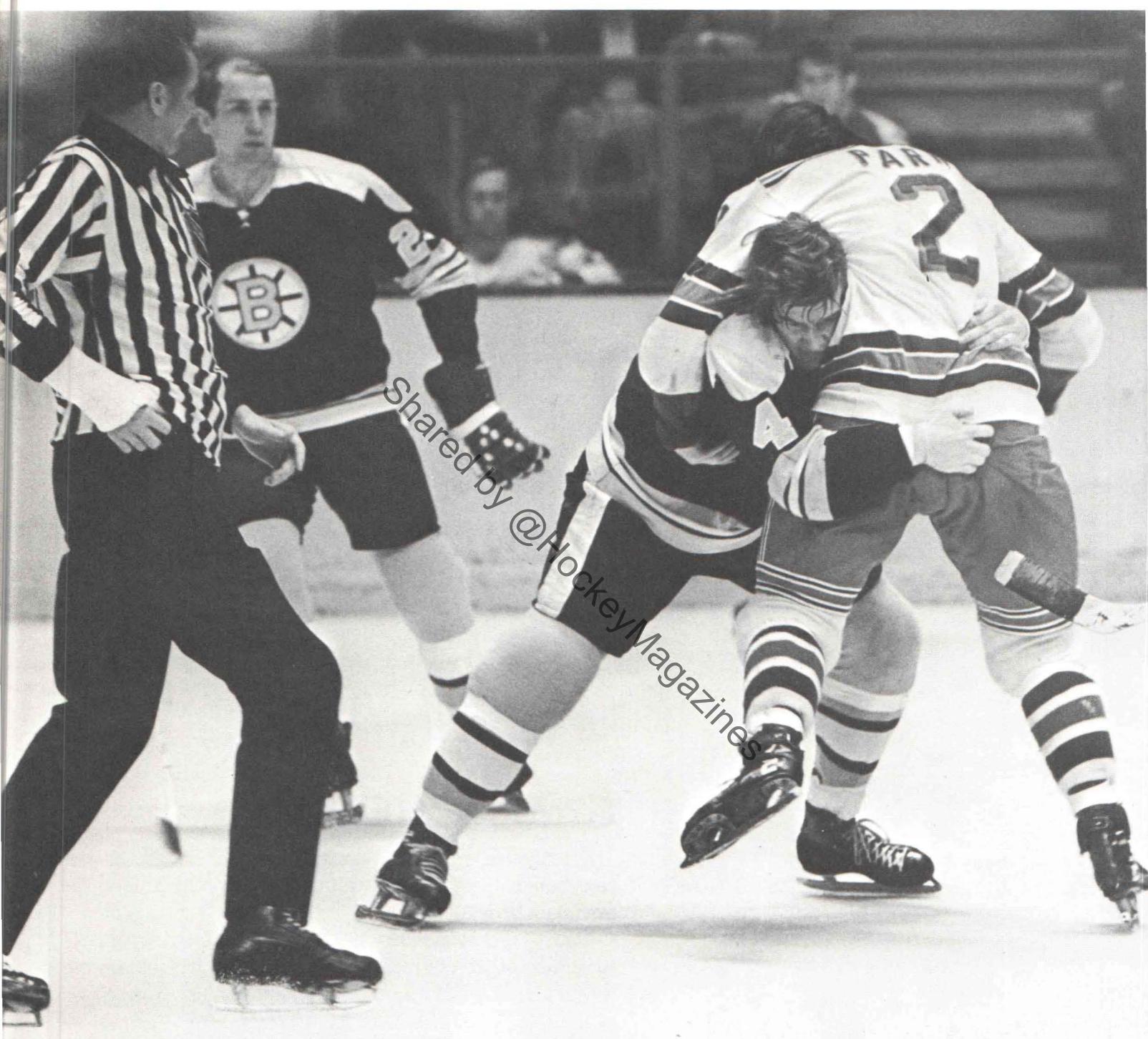
stanley cup finals 1972—the bitter series

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

GAME ONE

"If Ace Bailey played regularly," one of his teammates said before the Stanley Cup finals began, "he'd be a 30-goal man at least."

Bailey, the Boston Bruins' blond, fourth-string center, gave a measure of truth to this statement by coming off the bench to score the winning goal against New York in the 6-5 opening-game of the Cup finals on April 30 at Boston Garden. At the time Bailey was replacing Derek Sanderson, who was recuperating from a colitis and virus attack.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

THE BATTLE BETWEEN NUMBER ONE AND NUMBER TWO—According to most knowledgeable hockey ~~antics~~, Bobby Orr (4) is the number one stick-handler in the world. Brad Park (2) has frequently said he has no objections to being called “number two.” Both players respect each other’s qualities but there is no love lost between them. Orr has resented charges made by Park against the Bruins in Brad’s autobiography and Park has bitterly denounced some of the Boston players for their vigorous style of play. The animosity between the two reached a peak in May 1972 when they fought in the fourth game of the Stanley Cup finals at Madison Square Garden. Rather appropriately, the clash ended with Orr on top.

There were fewer than three minutes remaining in regulation time and the score was tied, 5-5, when Bailey made his dramatic move. A double pass from Mike Walton and Ed Westfall sent the 23-year-old Bailey careening along the left boards. Only Rangers’ back-pedaling defenseman Brad Park separated Bailey from New York goalie Ed Giacomin.

“I thought I had him,” said Park, who is probably the most hated Ranger in Boston. “I figured I had him by the boards and there was no way he could go around me.”

Bailey just barely circled Park and approached Giacomin from a near-impossible angle, almost on a direct line with the goal crease. The Ranger goalie prematurely dropped to his knees and tried to poke the puck off Bailey’s stick. However, Bailey flipped the puck over Giacomin’s shoulder and into the short side of the net.

Bailey’s winner was the culmination of a roller-coaster game in which the Bruins overcame Ranger Dale Rolfe’s opening goal to take a 5-1 lead on scores by Sanderson, Fred Stanfield, and a three-goal hat trick by Ken Hodge.

Most embarrassing to the Rangers was the fact that Sanderson’s goal and one of Hodge’s were scored during a first-period Ranger power play.

Then, just when it appeared that the Rangers were ready to expire, they revived and tied the score.

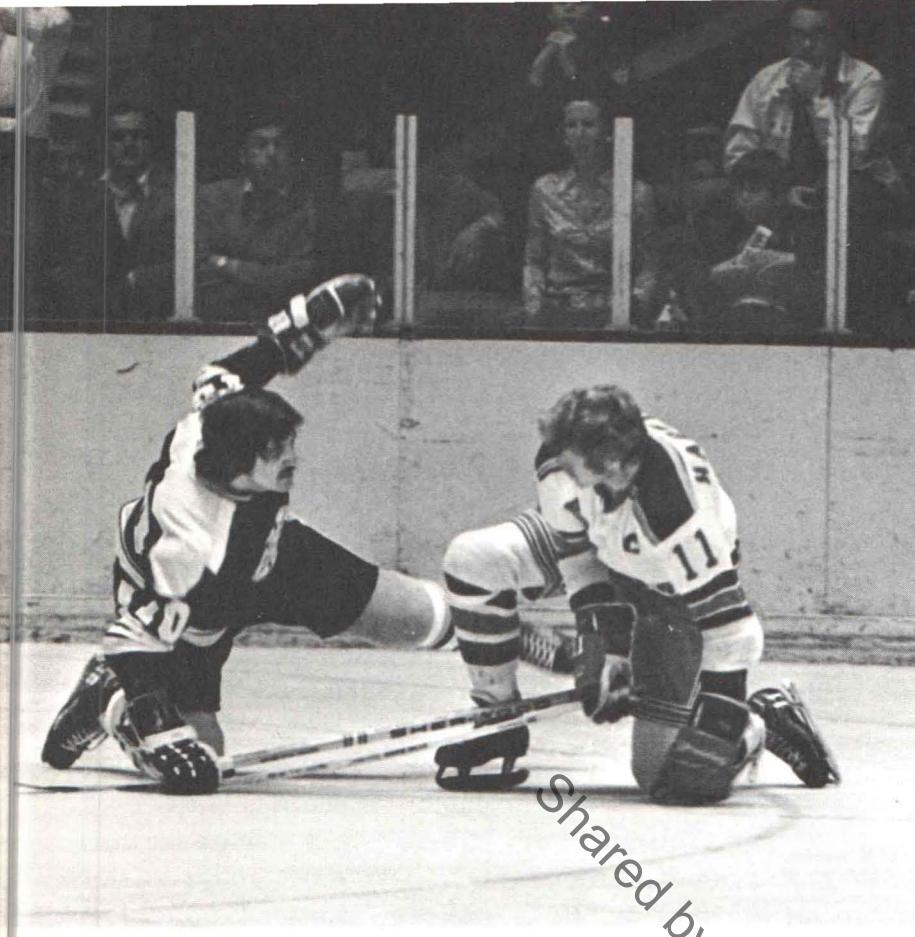
“We knew they weren’t out of the game,” said Boston’s John McKenzie.

Rod Gilbert made it 5-2 at 11:54 of the second period. Then Vic Hadfield, Walt Tkaczuk and Bruce MacGregor successively beat Boston goalie Gerry Cheevers before the third period was half over.

“Losers quit,” said Hadfield. “We didn’t.”

The Rangers, who have not won the Stanley Cup since 1940, appeared ready to capture the game on their momentum. In the final 10 minutes, however, their attack fizzled and Ace Bailey applied the “coup de grace”.

Concealing their despair, the Rangers talked of a moral victory in defeat. “We’re happy,” said Hadfield. “Not happy that we lost, but that we could sure score goals against them.”



Carol Vadnais and Vic Hadfield joust on the ice.

Plucking it out of the air.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

Outmuscled, Outplayed

The Bruins thoroughly outmuscled the smaller Rangers and Bailey personally dispatched Ranger forward Ron Stewart to the hospital with a fractured jaw. It didn't stop there. The Rangers had been humiliated by the Bruins.

When the score was 5-5, Rod Seiling of the Rangers was prone on the ice as the whistle stopped play. A second later, Sanderson skated directly to Seiling, stopped short and sprayed ice flakes into the Ranger defenseman's face. Not a Ranger lifted a finger to Sanderson. That action seemed to symbolize the Bruins' disdain for the Rangers.

As for the quality of hockey, the 14,995 fans in Boston Garden witnessed some splendid offensive play by Tkaczuk, Bobby Orr and Hodge. Unfortunately, they also saw atrocious goaltending by Giacomin and Cheevers.

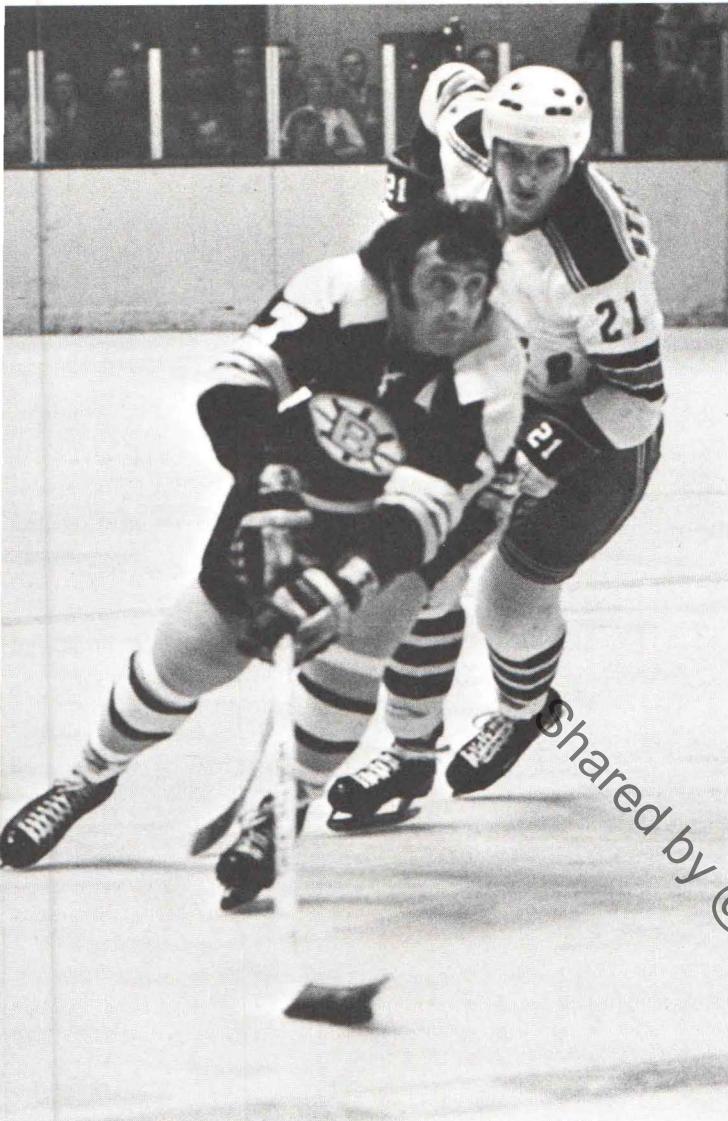
The perplexing question was which club would ultimately benefit most from the roller-coaster opener? The answer would provide the best clue as to the eventual Stanley Cup winner.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines



Carol Vadnais stands by to help Goalie Cheevers as Jean Ratelle, just as gagerly, awaits to tip in the oncoming disc.



GAME TWO

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

In defiance of the law of averages, the Boston Bruins beat the New York Rangers on May 3, for the seventh straight time, 2-1, to take a 2-0 game lead in the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup finals. A power-play by Ken Hodge at 11:53 of the third period while New York had two men in the penalty box gave Boston the decision before a tumultuous crowd at Boston Garden.

Bruce MacGregor and Walt Tkaczuk of the Rangers were sitting out penalties when Mike Walton of the Bruins spotted Hodge camped in front of the New York net. Walton's pass was crisp and Hodge deflected the puck past goalie Gilles Villemure.

Replacing Ed Giacomin, who was bombed in the series opener, Villemure got a piece of most of the 25 shots Boston hurled at him. His only other mistake was fanning on Johnny Bucyk's first-period power play shot at 16:15 while Gary Doak was sitting out a penalty. That gave Boston a 1-0 lead.

Checking more vigorously than in the series opener, New York tied the score at 7:23 of the second period when Vic Hadfield relieved Ed Westfall of the puck in Bruins' territory and passed off to his open right wing, Rod Gilbert. Without hesitation, Gilbert found an opening behind Goalie Ed Johnston. From then on, the Rangers held fast until Hodge broke the tie in the third period.

"The first two games could have gone either way," said Hadfield. "Considering how well we played, there's no reason why we can't come back."

Superior Boston Goaltending

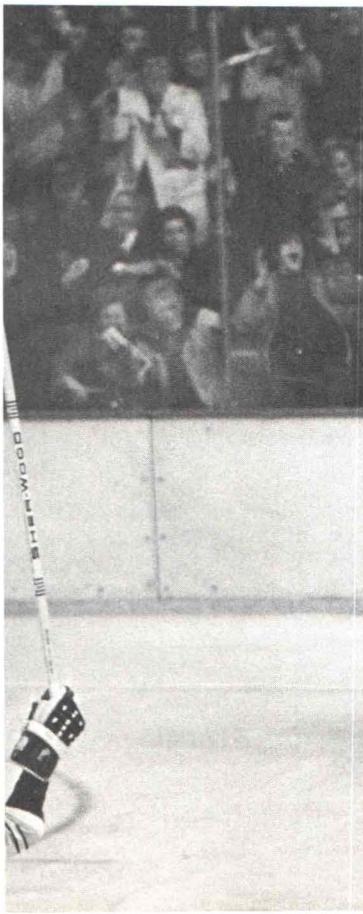
The best reason was the fact that Boston pounded the lighter New York players at every turn. They neutralized such scorers as Bobby Rousseau and MacGregor as they overwhelmed the smaller Ranger defensemen. Boston's goaltending in the second game was also superior to the Rangers' net work.

New York center Jean Ratelle, having failed to regain prime condition after an ankle injury, played only part-time. As a result, center Tkaczuk was worked overtime, killing penalties and skating the power play. Without doubt he was the outstanding Ranger forward.

"Tkaczuk is a super star," said Bruins' center Derek Sanderson. "He's among the top five centers in the league."

Tkaczuk overshadowed Boston's Phil Esposito, who was harassed by several New Yorkers, not the least among them being Tkaczuk. At times, the two big centers appeared close to coming to blows. However, when it came to winning face-offs, Esposito, Sanderson and Fred Stanfield were unbeatable.

ONCE AGAIN, THE RANGERS ARE DEFEATED . . . A fight has erupted on Boston Garden ice between the Rangers and Bruins and this time the New Yorkers are boxed into the corner—along the ropes, as it were—by the burly Bruins. Ken Hodge, upper left, takes care of Glen Sather (6) while Wayne Cashman (lower right) pushes his glove across Jim Nielson's right cheek. Neither Ranger defenseman Rod Seiling nor the linesmen appear capable of halting the rough stuff.





Shared by @HockeyMagazines





Shared by @HockeyMagazines

A slight altercation—one of many on Madison Square Garden ice.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

In this game the Rangers successfully contained high-scoring defenseman Bobby Orr, but they were unable to penetrate the beefy Boston backline led by Don Awrey. He spent a good part of the evening sending Rangers headfirst to the ice. By comparison, the New Yorkers defense was genteel.

Having lost five straight games to Boston during the regular season and now, two more in the playoffs, New York appeared destined to psych itself right out of the Cup finals in straight games unless it found the winning formula at friendly Madison Square Garden.

"The team that's going to win," said Hodge, "is the team that makes the big play when it's needed."

Up through the second game, it was only the Bruins who had made that very important play.



Superlative efforts by Rod Gilbert as well as Brad Park who played vigorous and solid hockey (each scoring two goals) helped the Rangers defeat the Bruins in the third game of the series at Madison Square Garden. It was also the first Ranger victory against the Bruins on home ice all season.



GAME THREE

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

Mustering their strongest total performance against Boston in eight months, the Rangers defeated the Bruins, 5-2, at Madison Square Garden on May 4. The victory reduced Boston's lead in the best-of-seven series to 2-1. It was also the Rangers' first win over the Bruins all season on Madison Square Garden ice.

A frantic and frequently deafening crowd of 17,250 was treated to superlative efforts by New York right wing Rod Gilbert and defenseman Brad Park. Each scored twice and played vigorous hockey throughout the entire game. Peter Stemkowski scored the other Ranger goal while Mike Walton and Bobby Orr produced goals for Boston.

The pattern of the game was established in the opening minute when New York center Walt Tkaczuk captured the face-off and sped past the Boston defenders for a crisp shot at goalie Gerry Cheevers. In the process, defenseman Dallas Smith tackled Tkaczuk, taking a two-minute penalty.

The Rangers revved up their power play and took the lead at 1:22 on a dynamic 50-foot blast past Cheevers by Brad Park.

"Only the day before," said Park, "the coach told us we weren't getting enough shots on our power play. So I had it in mind to take more shots."

Soon the Bruins began generating shots. A spate of three straight New York penalties brought on the awesome Boston power plays before the 10-minute mark. A combination of vigilant goaltending by Ed Giacomin, superb penalty killing by Tkaczuk and Bill Fairbairn and a bit of luck enabled the Rangers to blunt the Bruins' attack.

"In Tkaczuk and Fairbairn," said Gilbert, "we have the best penalty-killers in hockey."

Boston's penalty-killing was less effective. Two more Bruin penalties in the first period led to goals by Gilbert and Park's second for a 3-0 Ranger lead.

New York, began losing its attack momentum late in the first period.

Walton's shot from the lip of the goal crease fooled Giacomin at 14:04 of the first. Orr scored as he was being tripped before the second period was two minutes old.

Reeling and apparently ready to blow the game, the Rangers were rejuvenated by Gilbert's second goal at 3:46 of the middle period on feeds from Park and Bobby Rousseau.

"It was a good shot," said Cheevers, "but I didn't play it the way I should have."



THE GENTLEMAN FARMER FROM HAMIOTA, MANITOBA—Dallas Smith who operates a huge farm on the Canadian prairie in the Province of Manitoba has been a mainstay on the Bruins defense since 1967 after a few previous tries. The unsung hero who backs up Bobby Orr when the superstar embarks on one of his charges up ice, Smith is known as a “defenseman’s defenseman.” Here, in a classic pose, he launches a rush just outside the face-off circle. Notice his puffed cheeks as he revs up his engine into high gear while goalie Ed Johnston slides his skates into place for a moment’s respite.



The Hostility Grows

Reinforced with a two-goal lead, New York traded blow for blow with Boston in a game that grew progressively more hostile as the second period ended.

The more devastating clashes occurred between Ted Irvine and Carol Vadnais, Glen Sather and John McKenzie, Gene Carr and Bobby Orr, and Carr and Ed Westfall.

By the end of the second period, the Rangers had lost defenseman Jim Neilson who left the game with a strained knee and defenseman Ab DeMarco who was carried off the ice on a stretcher. He suffered a deep skate gash in a corner crash with Garnet Bailey, leaving New York with three back-liners, Brad Park, Dale Rolfe and Rod Seiling.



Wayne Cashman has the puck. Will he keep it? Probably!

However, Stemkowski's goal late in the second gave New York a 5-2 lead which the Rangers nursed through the third, bolstered by Giacomin and his checking forwards.

The Bruins were not sanguine about possible defeat. Wayne Cashman, who, late in the season, had been suspended for menacing Dennis Hextall of Minnesota with his stick, nearly beheaded one Ranger as a teammate put a hard head-lock on Park. Referee John Ashley didn't call a penalty.

"Tell Park," snapped Sanderson, "that we'll get him next."

If the Rangers were concerned, they didn't betray much emotion.

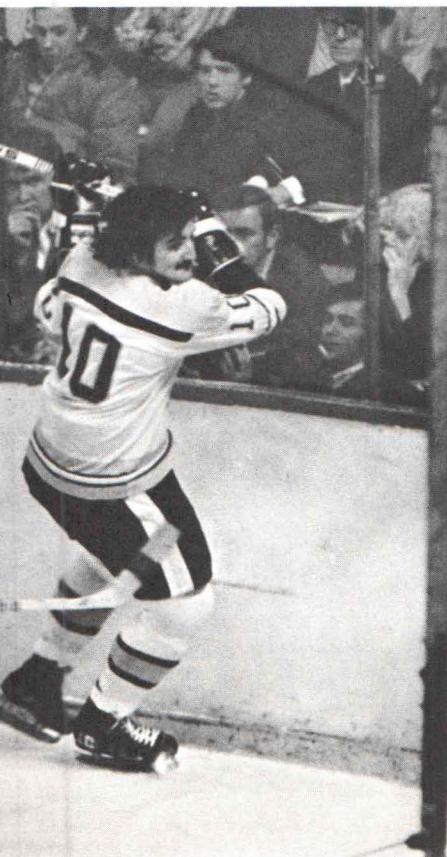
"We were more physical than I thought we would be," said Stemkowski. "This is the way to play the Bruins."

Several times members of the audience tried very hard to get into the act. One fan stormed the Bruins' bench with beer bottle in hand, only to be intercepted by Garden police. Another grabbed McKenzie's stick and invited him outside to fight.

When the final buzzer sounded, the Bruins covered their heads with their hands as they left the ice under a hail of garbage.

"Those Ranger fans made a fine spectacle of themselves tonight," carped Cashman.

In a more positive sense, the Rangers did, too, for a change.



Carol Vadnais takes a swack but Brad Park is keeping his eye on the Bruin offensive power.

Shared by @HockeyMagazines



GAME FOUR

Shared by @HockeyMagazine

On May 7 the Bruins removed the New York Rangers from their brief flight of winning fantasy and returned them to the real world of thumping and bumping. The Bruins scored a 3-2 victory and took a commanding 3-1 lead in the Cup finals.

A capacity crowd was hoping the Rangers would tie the series that afternoon but their cheers were turned to numb silence early in the first period when two successive goals by Boston defenseman Bobby Orr set the tone for the contest.

The Rangers were able to contain NHL leading scorer Phil Esposito, but Orr's rushes were irrepressible.

"You have to play a good forechecking game so as not to let him wheel out of his end with the puck," said Emile Francis in delineating the anti-Orr play. "You can't let him lug that mail out. He's too dangerous."

Unfortunately for the Rangers there wasn't a New Yorker capable of putting the manacles on Prince Bobby often enough.

Orr's Key Goal

Francis's strategy backfired at the 5:26 mark of the opening period. He sent defenseman Jim Dorey onto the ice for the first time since his injury late in the regular season. Orr promptly broke past Dorey for the key first goal.

With his second goal, Orr set a playoff record of 21 points by a defenseman, one more than the mark he had set two years before.

Uphill for the Rangers

For the Rangers now, it was all uphill against the Bruins' sextet. The men from Boston were determined to prove that their May 4 defeat on Madison Square Garden ice was a fluke. They smashed the Rangers at every turn. Fights were the order of the day. When the first period ended, referee Bruce Hood had whistled 16 penalty minutes.

Playing without regular defensemen Jim Nelson and Ab DeMarco, the Rangers appeared logy and off-balance. When the New Yorkers had a man advantage in the second period, it was Orr who fed penalty-killer Don Marcotte for the third Boston goal. That goal appeared to break the Rangers' backs.

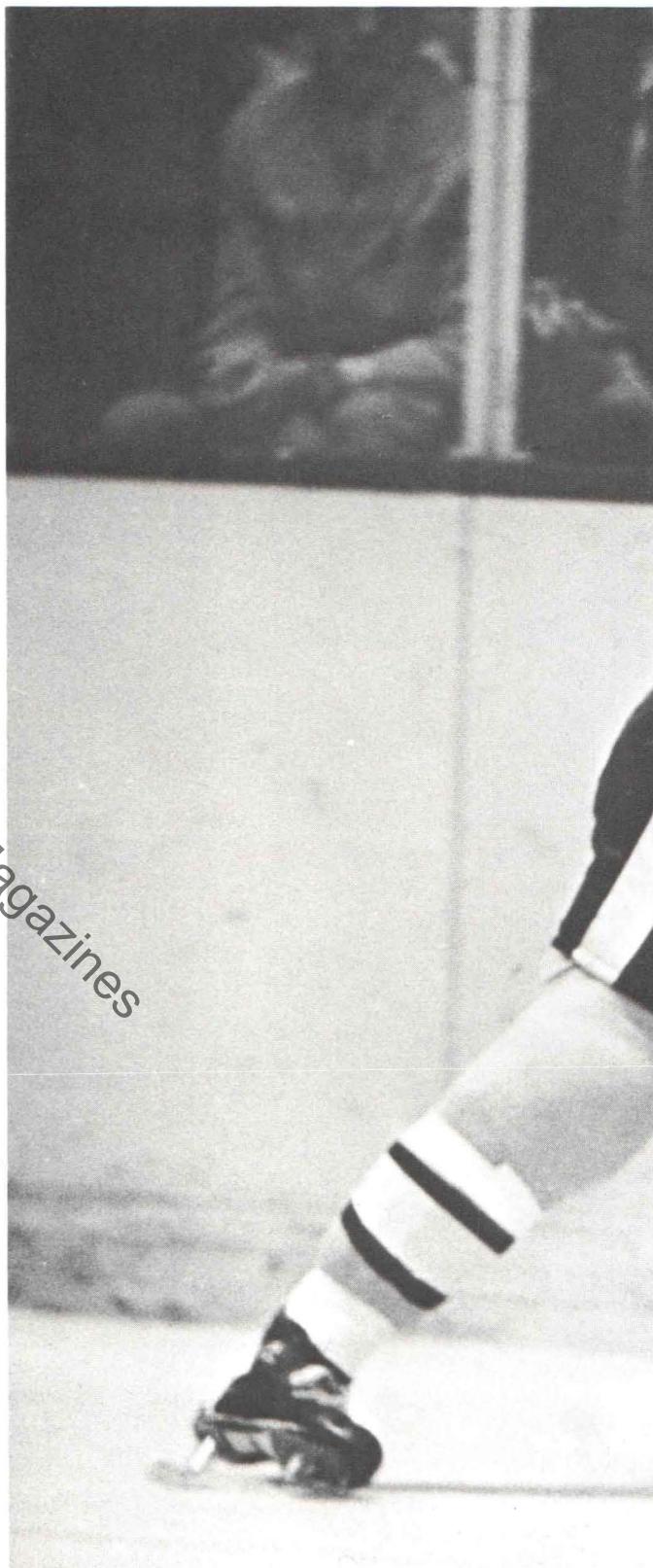
Finally, at 18:38 of the middle period the Rangers managed to score. Ted Irvine sped through the Boston defense for a 15-foot blast past goalie Ed Johnston.

Following Marcotte's goal, the Bruins scrapped their offensive drives for a more defensive posture, harassing the Rangers with saturating forechecking. It worked perfectly until Irvine scored.

The best Ranger effort was a long shot by defenseman Rod Seiling that beat Johnston with less than two minutes remaining in the game. Nevertheless, the leg-weary Rangers couldn't translate that goal into more energy. Once again they failed to obtain the tying score. Johnston had shut the door.

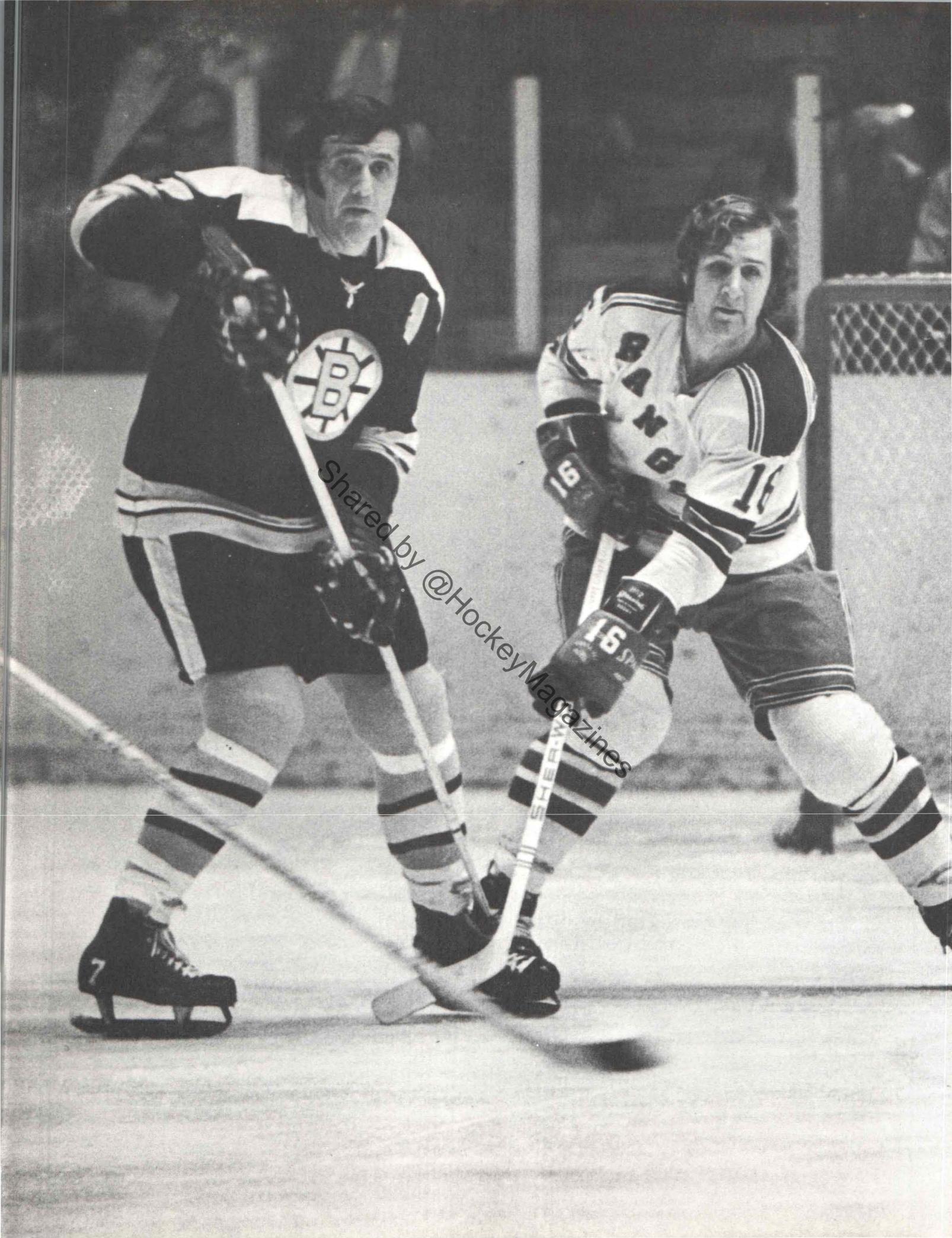
The Rangers had hoped to emerge from the fourth Cup match with a 2-2 series split. Instead, they came away with a 1-3 deficit and the knowledge that the next game was in Boston Garden, where Orr plays better than he does in New York.

Just the thought of it was enough to dash New York playoff hopes.





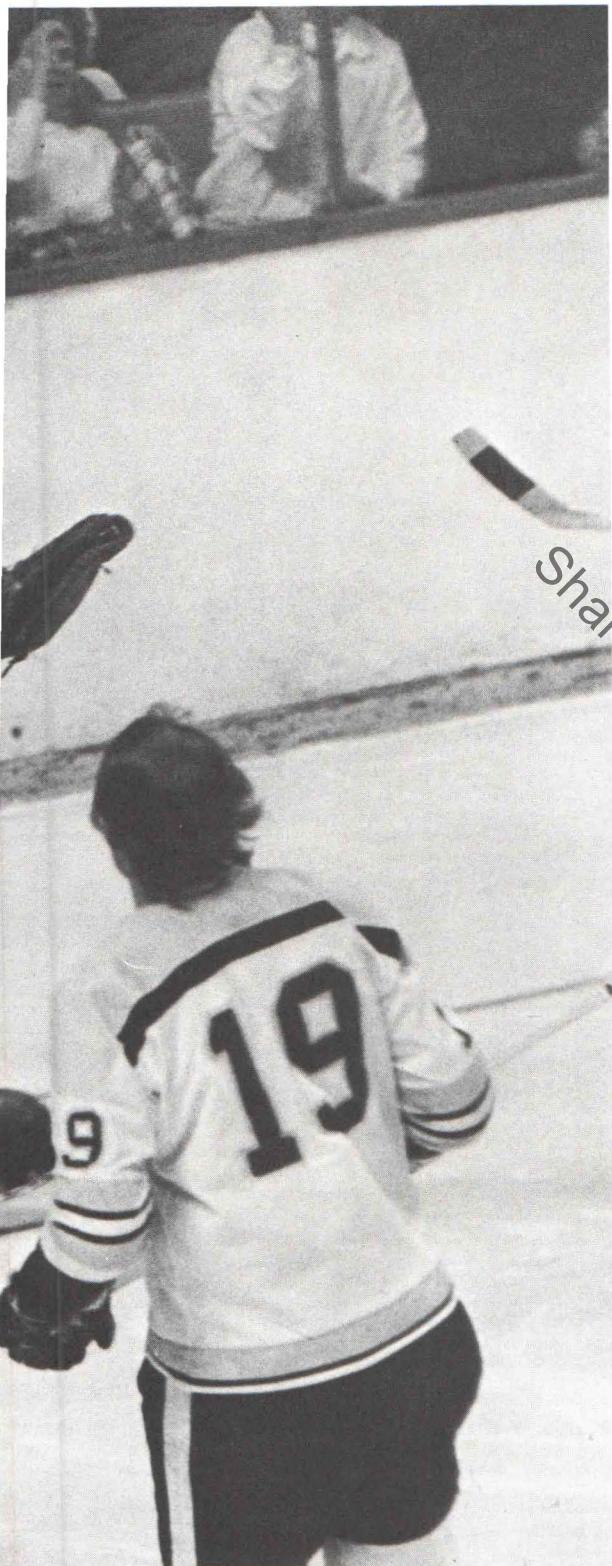
Bobby Orr and Dale Rolfe, battling for the elusive puck.







Brad Park scores.



Shared by @HockeyMagazine

GAME FIVE

Carefully primed for burial by the Boston Bruins, Emile Francis's obstinate New York Rangers struggled back to life May 9 with a gripping 3-2 triumph over the Hub sextet in the fifth game of the Stanley Cup finals.

The Bruins' defeat, speeded by Bobby Rousseau's two goals, stunned the primed spectators in Boston Garden who had anticipated a gala Cup-clinching fiesta. Instead, the Bostonians were left with a tenuous 3-2 lead in the series and were now threatened by a persistent New York club that could almost smell championship champagne.

"We never thought we were dead," said the Rangers' husky left wing, Ted Irvine, the architect of Rousseau's winning goal. "We figured we could go all the way."



TRAGEDY AT THE GOAL MOUTH—
It's the fifth game of the finals; the scene, Boston Garden. For a time it appeared that the Bruins would capture the Stanley Cup at home. Then along came little, helmeted Bobby Rousseau of the Rangers to play the killjoy. Here he applies the coup de grace, flipping the puck past defenseman Dallas Smith and goalie Ed Johnston for a goal. The expressions on the faces of the front row spectators confirm the bad news.



Shared by
@
CJLH

For two periods it appeared that the favored Bruins would go all the way to the championship. First-period goals by Wayne Cashman and Ken Hodge offset Ranger defenseman Dale Rolfe's score. Boston opened the third period nursing that one-goal margin.

At this point, Francis played his limited reserve strength to rare advantage. Rousseau, who had previously played pitifully against Boston, was called off the bench as center between Irvine and Peter Stempkowski.

The lighthorse, helmeted Rousseau immediately moved to the attack and bombed a 50-footer past defenseman Carol Vadnais, who screened goalie Ed Johnston. The puck ricocheted off Johnston's arm and into the net at 2:56, tying the game.

"Maybe a Little Overconfident?"

"We seemed tight," said goalie Johnston, who previously had thwarted the Rangers. "Maybe a little overconfident."

So, the Bruins' ballooning overconfidence was definitely deflated at 12:45 by the ubiquitous Rousseau.

The winning goal was set in motion by Irvine, who skimmed the puck along the boards behind the Bruins' net. Boston defensemen Dallas Smith and Bobby Orr appeared to be having a high-level conference over just who owned the puck. Meanwhile, Irvine solved the problem by capturing the disk.

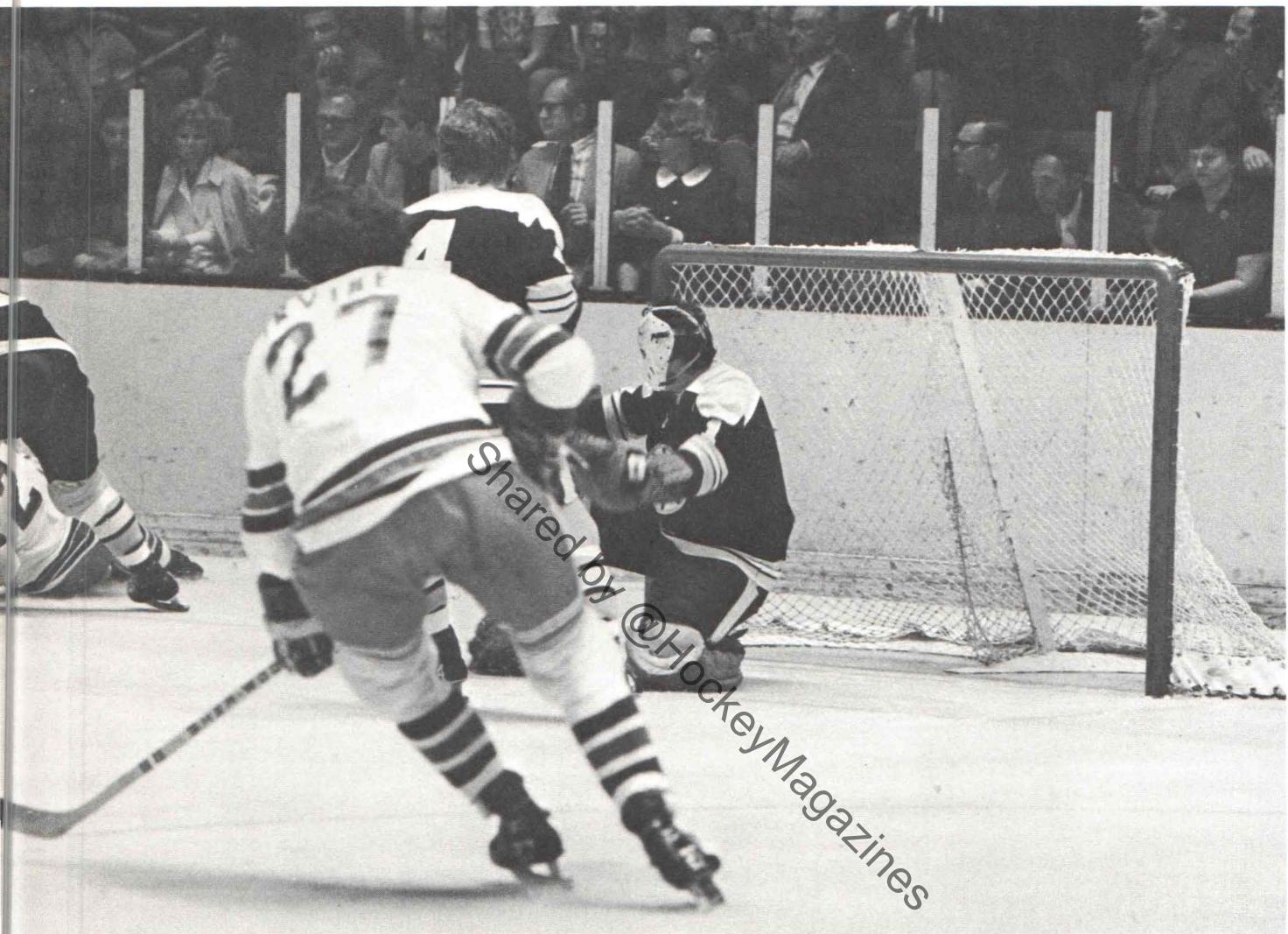
"I was all alone with the puck," said Irvine. "Then I noticed Bobby (Rousseau) alone in front of the net."

Irvine's pass had eyes and Rousseau's shot had radar, as it bounced off defenseman Smith and swept past Johnston.

"It was a wrist shot," said Rousseau.

"I saw it coming," said Johnston, "until it hit Smith and changed direction."

There were less than eight minutes remaining for the Bruins to counterattack. New York goalie Gilles Ville-mure, who had kept the Rangers alive for two periods, blunted Boston's best shots until the final seconds of play, when a wild scramble developed outside the goal crease.



A TWO-PRONGED DEFENSE—Ted Irvine of the Rangers (l.) has shot and goalie Ed Johnston has sprawled to boot the puck to the corner, out of danger while teammate Bobby Orr alertly looks for a rebound . . .

Orr and Johnston eye the puck in the corner as Irvine changes direction in pursuit of the rubber.

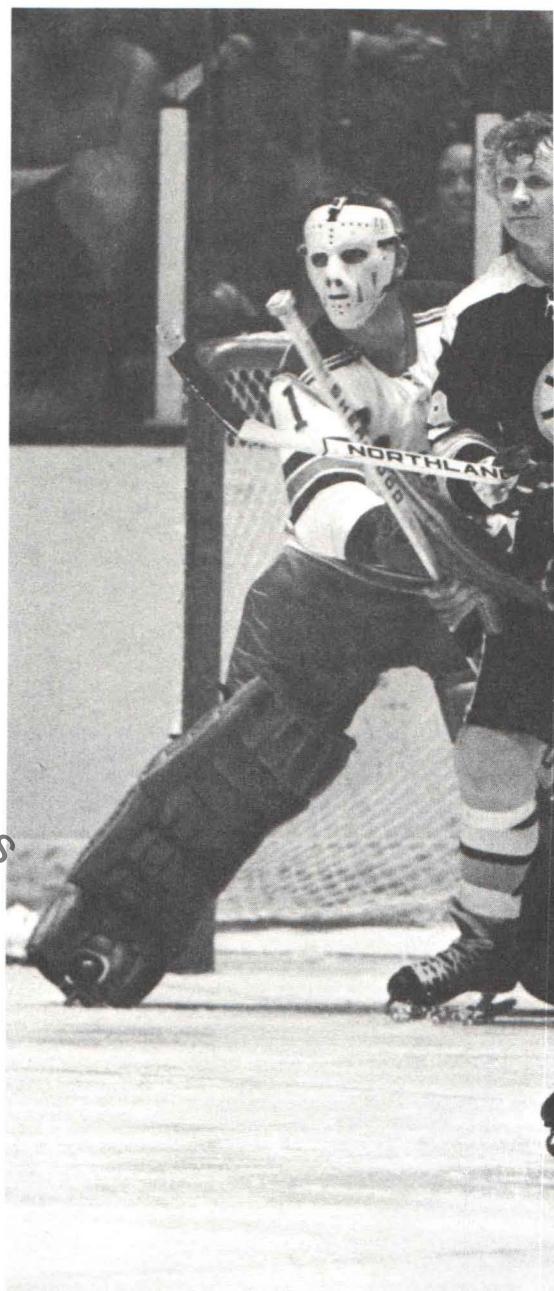
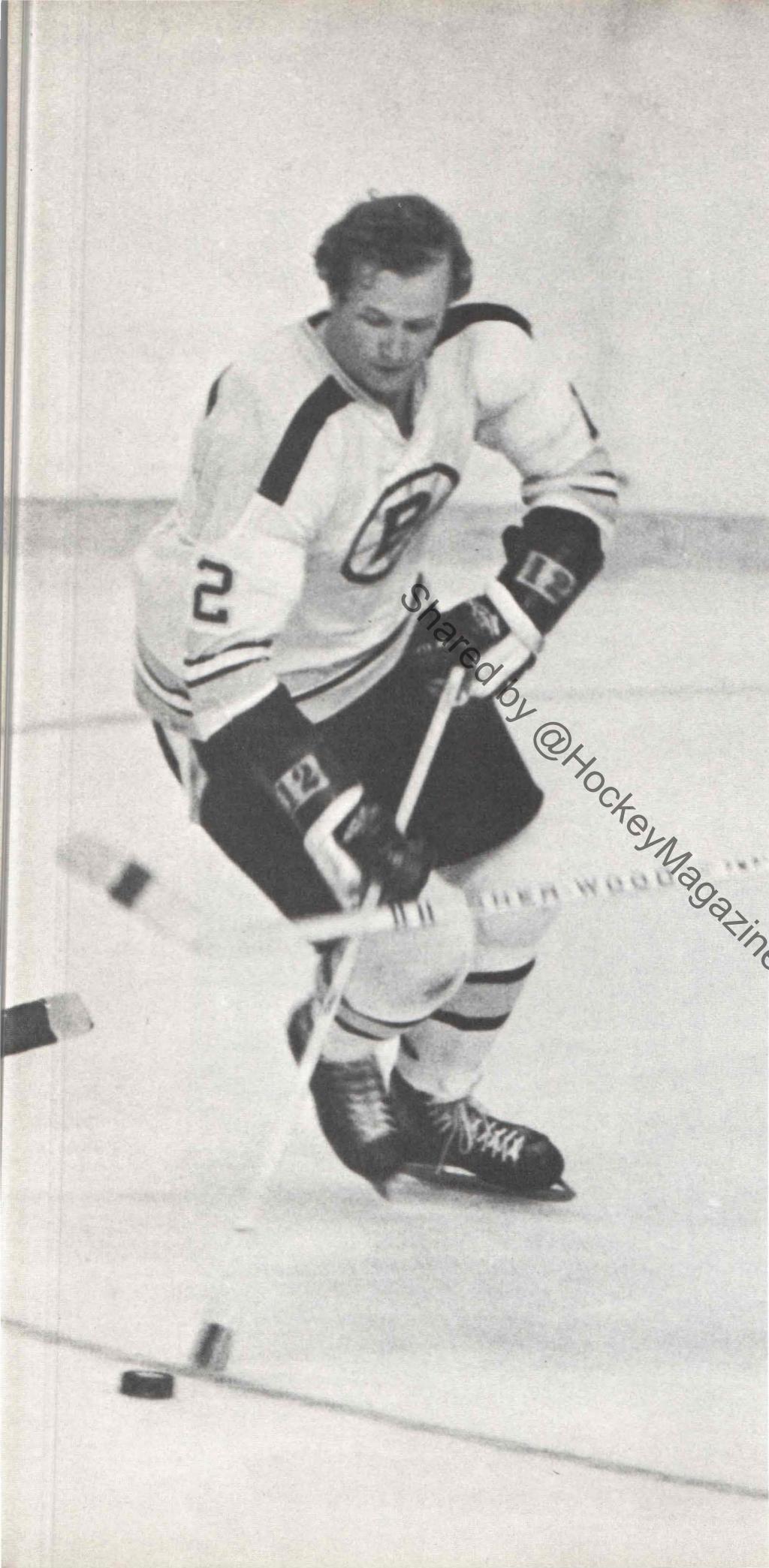
Villemure was pulled to the right side of the net as the puck slithered toward the left corner. Defenseman Brad Park slid into the breach, plugged the hole and the Rangers were home free.

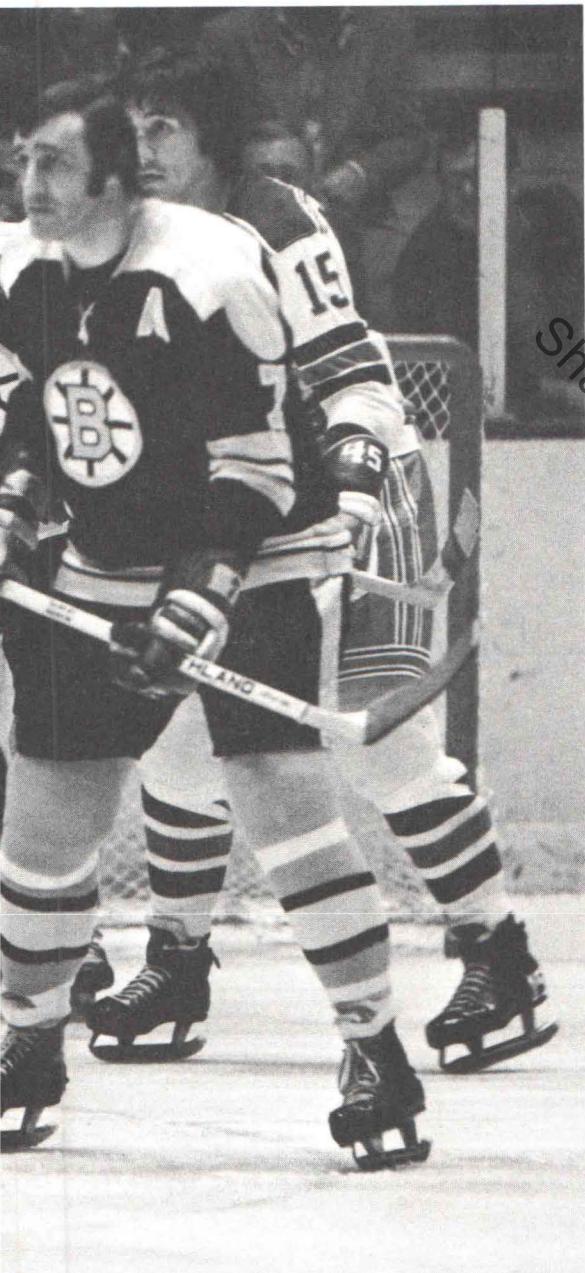
"The turning point," said Bruins's Coach Tom Johnson, "was late in the second period when we had a two-man advantage and didn't score."

Gary Doak and Walt Tkaczuk of New York had been penalized within 32 seconds of each other, but somehow the Bruins' scoring machine was impotent. At one point, Park broke in alone on Johnston but his shot hit the crossbar after beating the goalie.

Having weathered the double power-play, the Rangers gathered momentum in the third period and produced the tying and winning goals while the champagne bottles languished in the Bruins' dressing room for the victory party that wasn't to be. At least not on the night of May 9.







GAME SIX

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

In the professional hockey confrontation that seemed to be made in heaven for its fans, Boston's big, bad Bruins defeated the lighthorse New York Rangers, 3-0 on May 11 to win the Stanley Cup, four games to two.

Bobby Orr, the league's best defenseman, scored one goal and assisted on another, while goalie Gerry Cheevers, in the nets, mesmerized the frustrated Rangers thereby providing Boston with its second title in three years. New York has not won the Cup in 32 years.

The Rangers skated head to head with the Bruins in this viciously-played contest until 11:18 of the first period. Then, Orr seized a power-play opportunity and delivered a potent shot from the right point following passes from Johnny Bucyk and Ken Hodge.

New York goalie Gilles Villemure appeared mummi-fied as the puck blew into the open side to his left.

"I couldn't see the puck," said Villemure, "with all those guys in front of me."

With 17,250 fans at Madison Square Garden frantically cheering for a New York goal, the Rangers received a rare opportunity for three minutes and 12 seconds in the middle period when a spate of Boston penalties gave the Rangers a one and then a two-man advantage.

New York's strategy, which ultimately proved fruitless, was to persistently feed center Walt Tkaczuk in the keyhole. But the big center, whose shot often is weak, fired either wide of the net or off the body of a Bruin. In between, Cheevers made a few saves of his own.

Like Riva Ridge

"I knew I could beat the Rangers," said Cheevers, who also has been in the horse-racing business. "I felt like Riva Ridge."

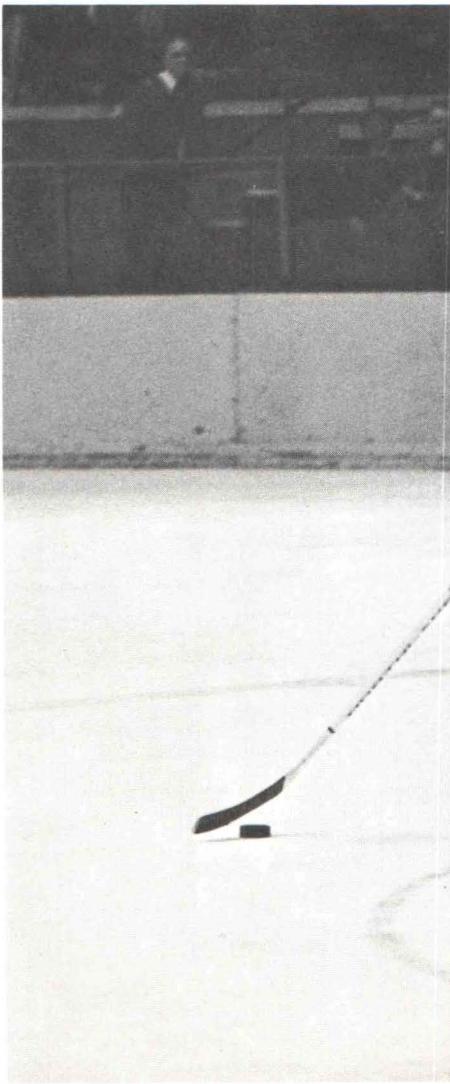
Having defused the major Rangers' power play, Boston escaped from the second period with a fragile 1-0 lead. However, the Bruins had decisively weakened their foe with punishing bodychecks. The fights that broke out did nothing to help the Rangers.

In one event Derek Sanderson took Rod Gilbert off the ice. Ken Hodge almost decimated Vic Hadfield. A less convincing bout featured Tkaczuk and Wayne Cashman.

The Rangers' last gasp was taken early in the third period when the fast-tiring New Yorkers delivered a few threatening drives at Cheevers.

Then with 3:20 gone, defenseman Dale Rolfe was penalized for draping Phil Esposito along the left boards and the Boston power play once more asserted itself. Just 10 seconds before Rolfe was to return, Orr accepted Esposito's face-off pass and fired the puck along the same route as his first-period drive, only this time Cashman directed it past Villemure.

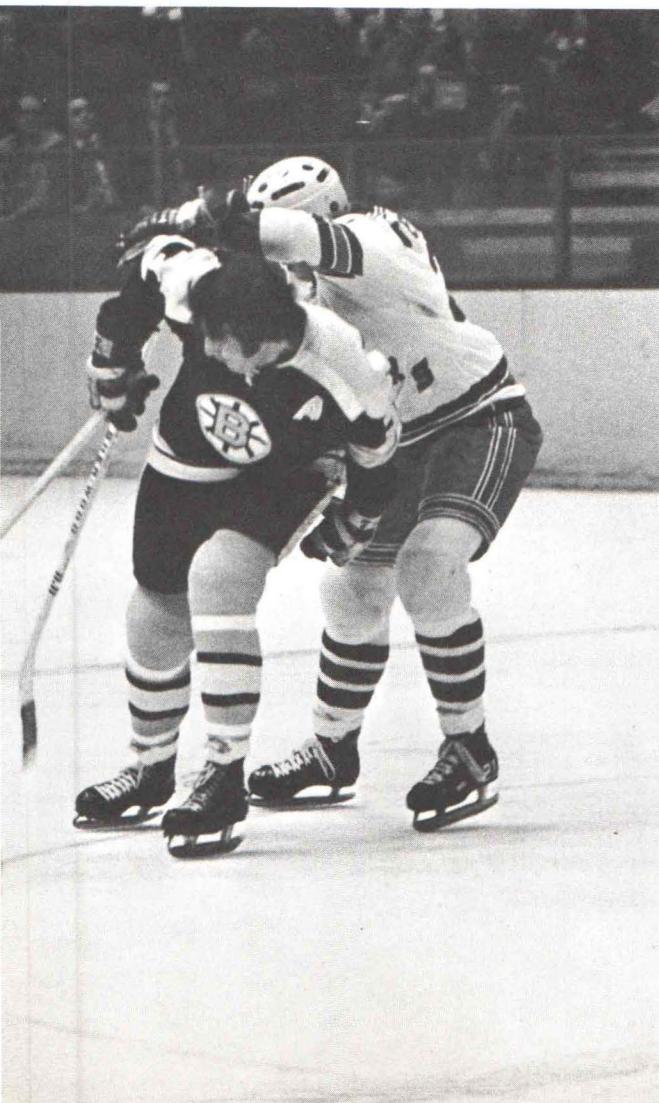
"I saw Orr wind up and shoot," said Villemure, "and I had a clean try for the puck. But then it hit Cashman, went off the post and in."

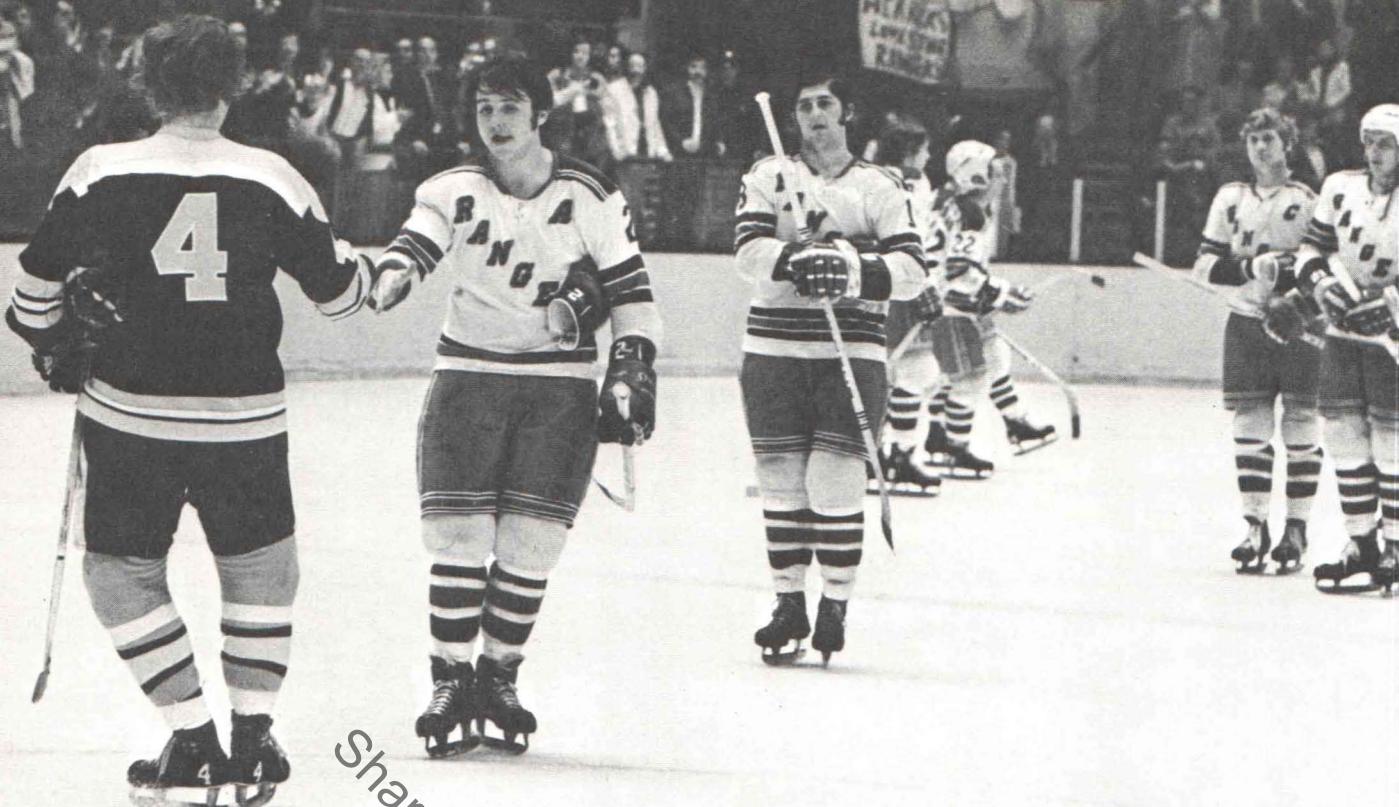




Shared by @HockeyMagazine

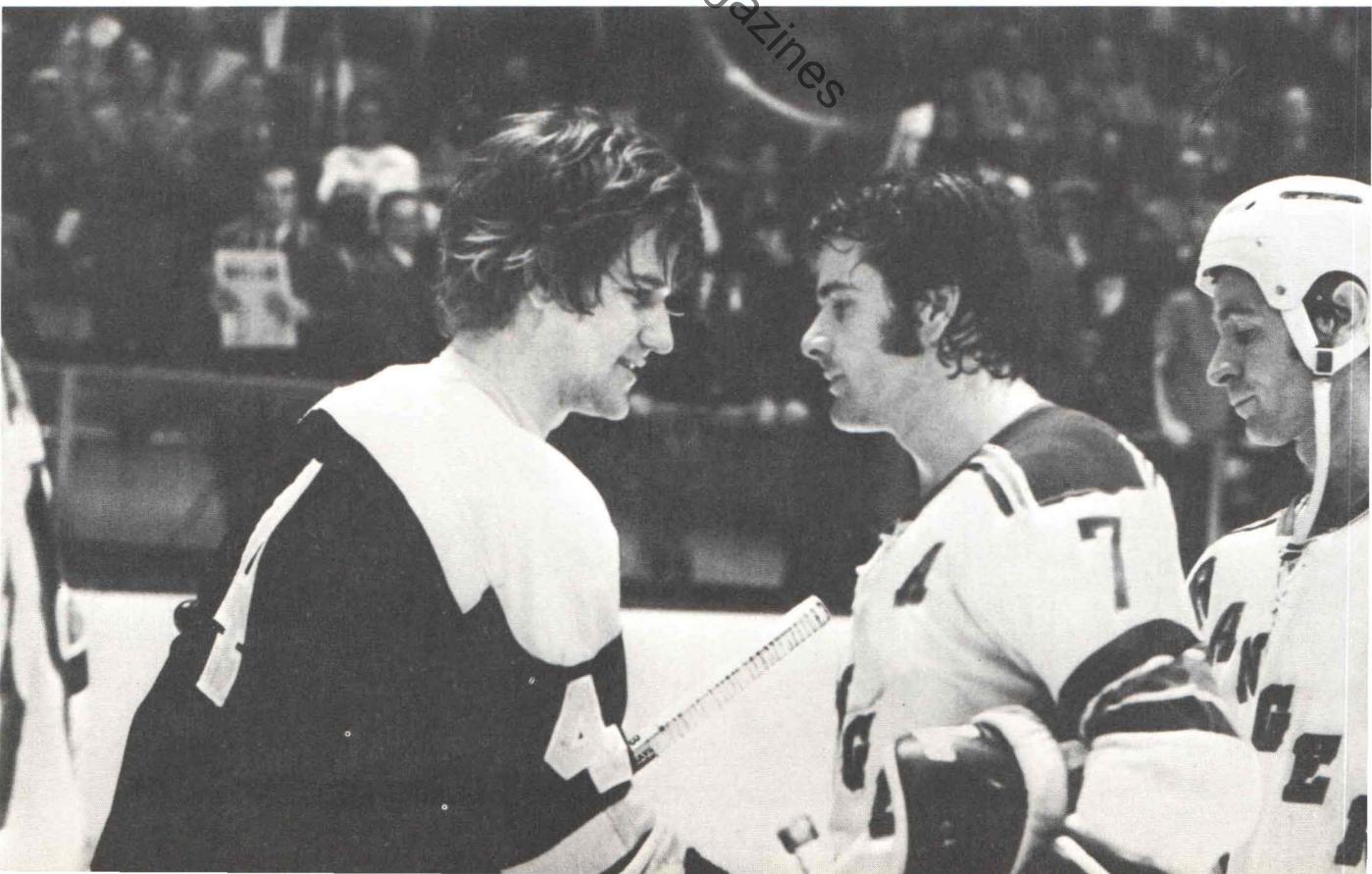
Stemkowski seems to be dogging Esposito's tail. He couldn't be any closer.





The losers congratulate the champions

Shared by @HockeyMagazines



King of the Hockey World

The time was 5:10 and it signalled the flagging of New York's attack. If there was any doubt about the Bruins' right to the championship, it was supplied at 18:11 by Cashman, who converted Esposito's pass on a two-on-one breakaway after Villemure managed to get a piece of the puck.

From then on, Boston defensemen such as Don Awrey, Dallas Smith and Orr threw a checking blanket over the Rangers until the final buzzer officially signalled Boston's return to Stanley Cup glory.

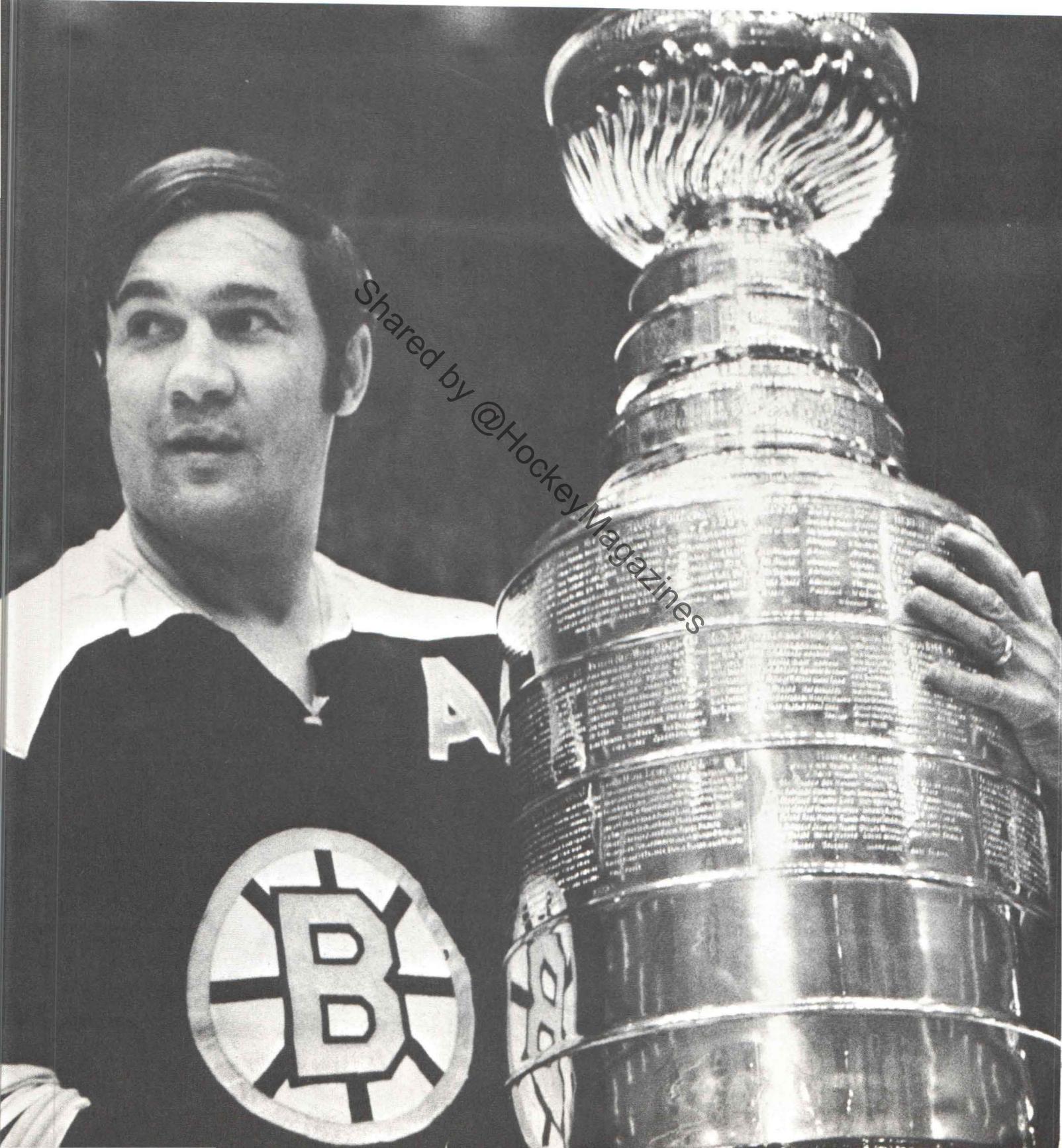
"It was great to beat them on their own ice," said John McKenzie. "We're the best team and we wanted to show it here."

The big, bad Bruins' show of strength could not have been more convincing nor the Rangers' congenital failure so obvious to the witnesses.

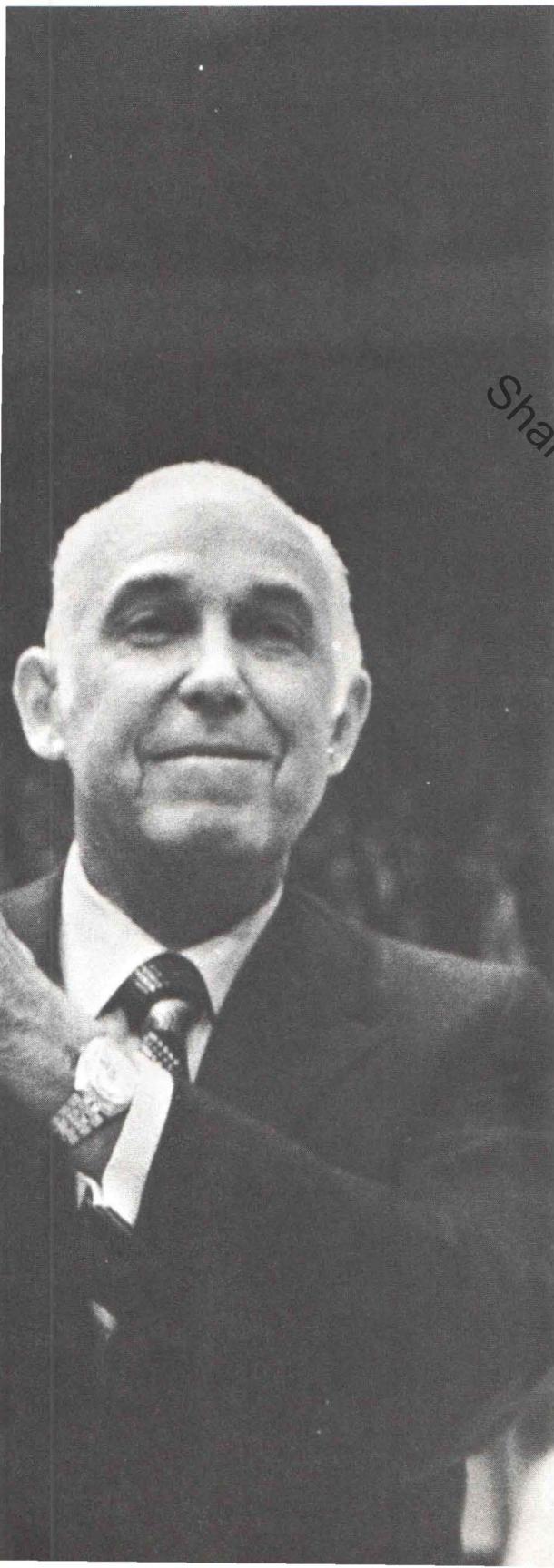
"We had our chances," said Rangers' Coach Emile Francis, underlining his club's failure, "but could not put the puck in the net."

The Bruins could, which explains why, for the fifth time in the club's history, Boston became king of the hockey world.

Shared by @HockeyMagazines



Shared by @HockeyMagazines



Paul Bereswill

the champagne hour

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

National Hockey League President Clarence Campbell presented the Stanley Cup to elder statesman Johnny Bucyk of the Bruins and, for the second time in three seasons, Bucyk lofted the venerable trophy in the air, signalling the memorable victory.

"This is the best of the Bruins teams," said Bucyk who came to Boston in 1957. "But, personally, for me the thrill isn't as big as it was in 1970. The first time you win is always the best."

Ed Westfall had also been a member of the 1970 Cup champions but said that the 1972 sextet was the better team. "We matured more," said Westfall. "We were not as chippy as we used to be."



Shared by @HockeyMagazines



A Triumphant Return

It was difficult for the joyful Bruins to adequately celebrate their triumph in the crowded quarters of the Madison Square Garden dressing room. They obliged newspapermen, photographers and radio-television interviewers and drank to their victory in beer. For the more official champagne celebration they returned to Boston where they were engulfed by 12,000 delirious fans when the plane landed at Logan Airport at 2:15 a.m.

Eastern Airlines' officials can hardly recall any welcoming demonstration quite like it, for size or enthusiasm. Massachusetts State Police quickly made diplomatic plans to handle the throng. "Remember," warned Captain Robert Herzog, commander of the Airport's State Police detail, "these people aren't demonstrators, they won't be throwing rocks at us. So use some restraint in handling them."

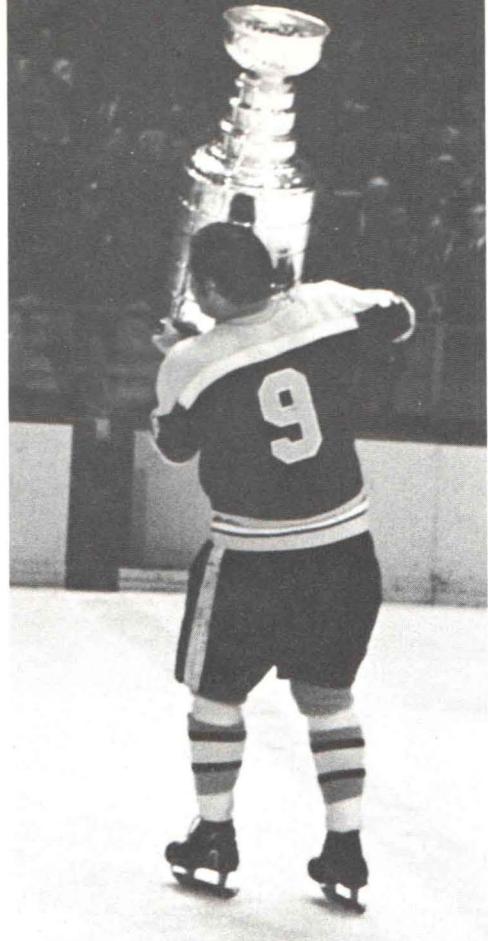
No sooner had the plane landed when a dozen women fainted. "It was hard to even breathe," said a reporter on the scene.

Working swiftly, troopers and ground crews cleared a narrow path into the terminal. At this point, the Bruins assembled in the jetwalk and began walking toward the terminal. Suddenly, the human wall which had kept the surging crowds in place, gave way and a tidal wave of fans engulfed the Bruins. Fortunately, nobody was seriously hurt and, by 2 a.m., the Boston players had departed, more or less intact.

The Puck Stops Here

"When you think of the size of the crowd," said an airport spokesman, "the biggest we've ever had at Logan, it was amazingly well-controlled. We feel very fortunate there was no injury to the place or the people."

Phil Esposito (l) makes a point while Ken Hodge (r) fondles the Cup.



Senior Bruin player Johnny Bucyk carries the Cup off the ice.

Better precautions were taken the next afternoon, May 12th, when an estimated 20,000 fans turned out for a City Hall reception. A huge banner—"THE PUCK STOPS HERE!"—was draped over the balcony as Wayne Cashman led a victory cheer. "We're number one," the crowd responded uproariously, "we're number one!"

Another cheer erupted when Derek Sanderson approached the microphone. "This is the greatest town in the world to play hockey in," said Sanderson. "Thank you very much."

Ed Westfall recalled the seasons when a Stanley Cup victory was nothing more than a figment of the Bruins' imagination. "During all those years when we kept losing," said Westfall, "and the Cup kept going to other cities, the Boston fans stuck with us. When you think of that as a pro athlete, it's very meaningful. Even when things were going badly, it felt great to be a Bruin."

As champagne corks finally popped in Mayor Kevin White's office even conservative coach Tom Johnson managed to twit his own cautious behavior during the series when a reporter asked, "What do you think of the New York series now?" A smile curled across Johnson's face as he replied: "I think we've got the edge."

the present and future bruins

Shared by @HockeyMagazine

Expansion of the National Hockey League from 14 to 16 teams in the 1972-73 season meant contraction of the Bruins roster of available talent. In order to supply the new teams—the Atlanta Flames and New York Islanders—with players, the Bruins relinquished several gifted young players.

Goalie Dan Bouchard was claimed by Atlanta while forward Garry Peters moved to the Islanders during activity at the annual draft meeting in Montreal in June, 1972. Most notable among the veterans to go was “steady” Eddie Westfall who had been a devoted Bruin since the hard days of 1961 when he broke into the National Hockey League as a defenseman.

Popular right wing John McKenzie also left Boston, but along a different route. “Johnny Pie,” upset over the fact that he was not among the protected Bruins, jumped to the new World Hockey Association and signed as player-coach of the Philadelphia Blazers.

Preserving Vitality

The departure of 32-year-old Westfall and 34-year-old McKenzie stirred rumblings of discontent among several critics and fans who were concerned about the loss of these skaters. But Bruins' president Weston Adams, Jr. asserted that a housecleaning of sorts was necessary to preserve the vitality of his hockey club.

"Look what happened to Detroit a few years ago," said Adams in defense of the breakup. "The Red Wings had great teams for years and then, one day, they woke up and discovered that the team grew old all at once."

Thus, rugged, 25-year-old Don Marcotte, who had played so commendably in short stints, got the nod as Westfall's replacement and 24-year-old Ace Bailey, a pugnacious puckchaser during the 1972 playoff crusade, was believed to be both energetic and capable enough to succeed McKenzie.

These, however, were relatively minor concerns. The most awesome question surrounds the future of Golden Boy Bobby Orr, who had damaged his left knee during the regular 1971-72 season, yet managed to spearhead the Bruins' Cup drive to its positive conclusion.

Orr's Outlook Is Good for Many Years

Painful spurs pressing against the cartilage in Orr's knee would have to be removed and early in June the 24-year-old balance wheel of the Bruins checked in to Massachusetts General Hospital for repairs. While the City of Boston held its collective breath Dr. Carter Rowe performed the surgery which included tightening Orr's ligaments for further protection. After leaving the operating room, Dr. Rowe delivered the following puck prognosis:

"Bobby Orr's condition is excellent and the outlook is very, very promising. He shouldn't have any more problems. The outlook is good for many, many years."



“The outlook is very promising.”

The operation was the third on Orr's left knee. Like the first and second operations, this was performed in the same area, on the inside. "We also smoothed the cartilage and tightened the ligaments after removing the spurs which were the primary objective of the surgery."

Surgeons who assisted Dr. Rowe, Dr. Dinesh Patel and Dr. Howard Baker, were as overwhelmed by Orr's performance before, during and after the breathtaking event as Bruins fans are when Bobby executes one of his daring maneuvers on the ice.

Orr—Tremendous, Great

"Bobby was a tremendous person to work with," said Dr. Rowe. "He has so much intuition and awareness."

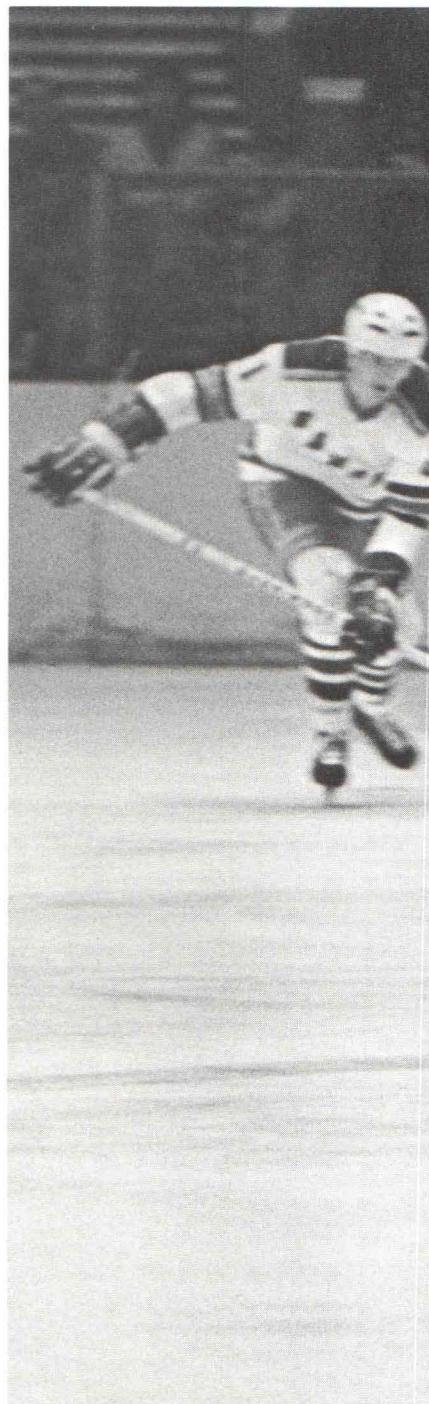
Dr. Patel added, "He was typically Bobby Orr after the operation. He woke up well, jovial and relaxed. He's a great person!"

With Orr and league-leading scorer Phil Esposito back in the lineup, the Bruins are favored by many to finish first in the East again and successfully defend the Stanley Cup. Also returned was coach Tom Johnson, whose future had been questioned in print because of alleged differences with manager Milt Schmidt.

"That's true in any organization, or in any family, for that matter," Schmidt explained. "In our business, it is almost natural that a coach should be thinking about the present while the general manager has to think about the future."

Johnson's future was sealed with a new contract to which Schmidt added, "There never was any doubt that he would be the coach."

And Johnson left no doubt that his methods, which delivered the biggest prizes in hockey to the Hub, would be executed in the future. "I guess," said Johnson, "that our style is here to stay!"

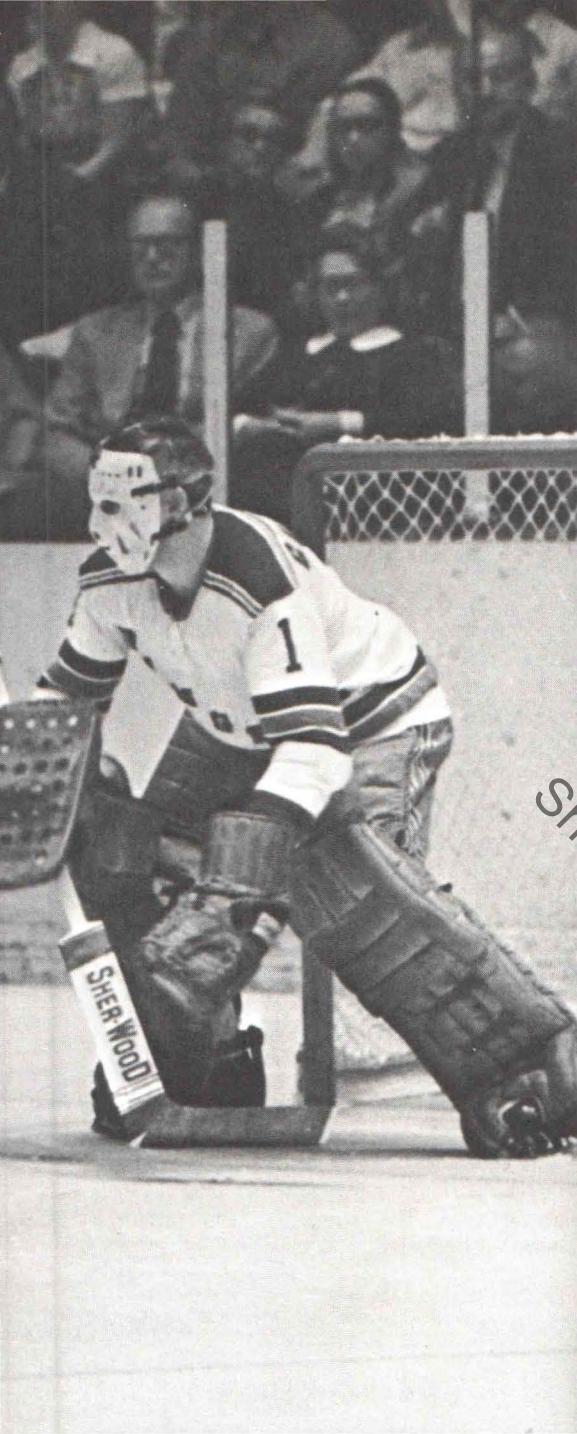




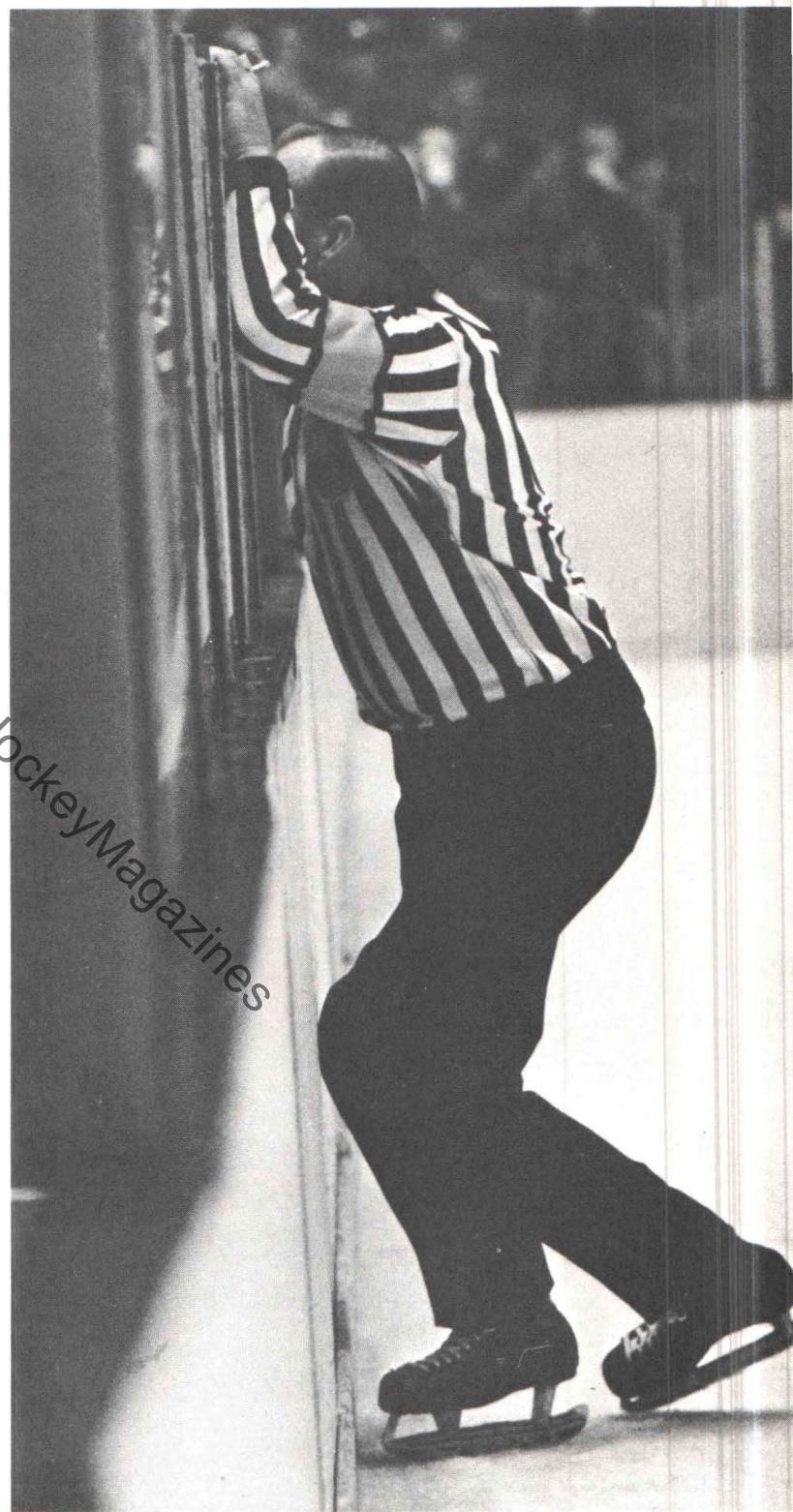
Bobby Orr—“intuition and awareness”...“a great person.”



Getting the puck away from Phil Esposito, a strenuous task for Brad Park and Walt Tkaczuk as Goalie Giacomin is at the ready, just in case. Dale Rolfe is an extra hand against the vagaries of the powerful Phil.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

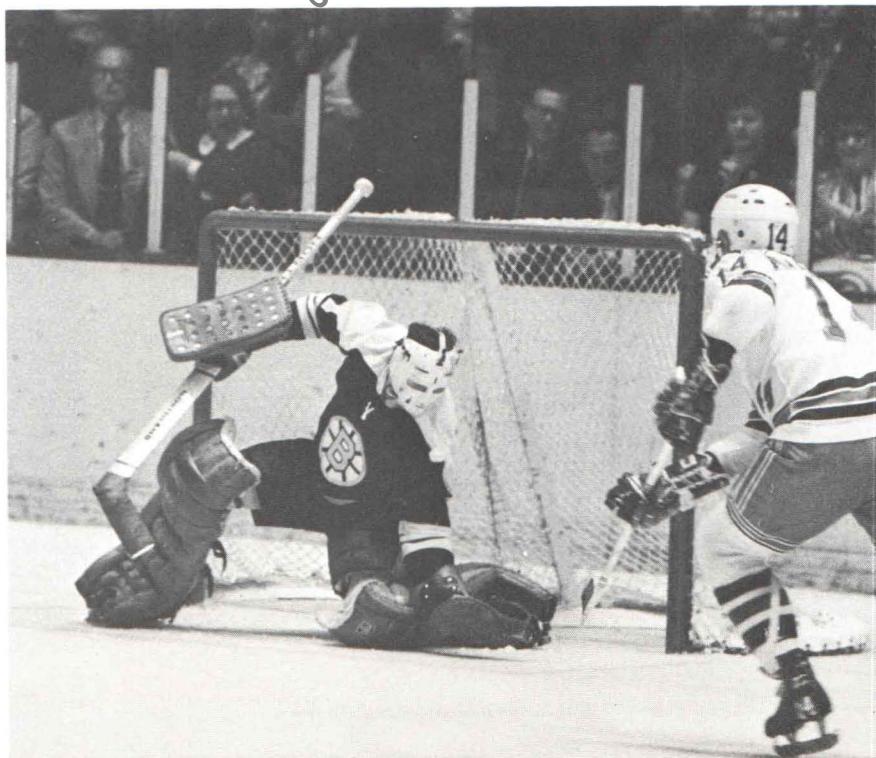


Referee Art Skov reports a two minute penalty to the timekeeper.



THE BEGINNING—AND END—~~OF A~~ A
BIG SAVE—A hard shot delivered from
the blue line by a New York defenseman
zeroes in on the Boston net guarded by
Ed Johnston. Bruce MacGregor (14) of
the Rangers cuts sharply toward the
crease in the hopes of gaining the re-
bound, if there is any . . .

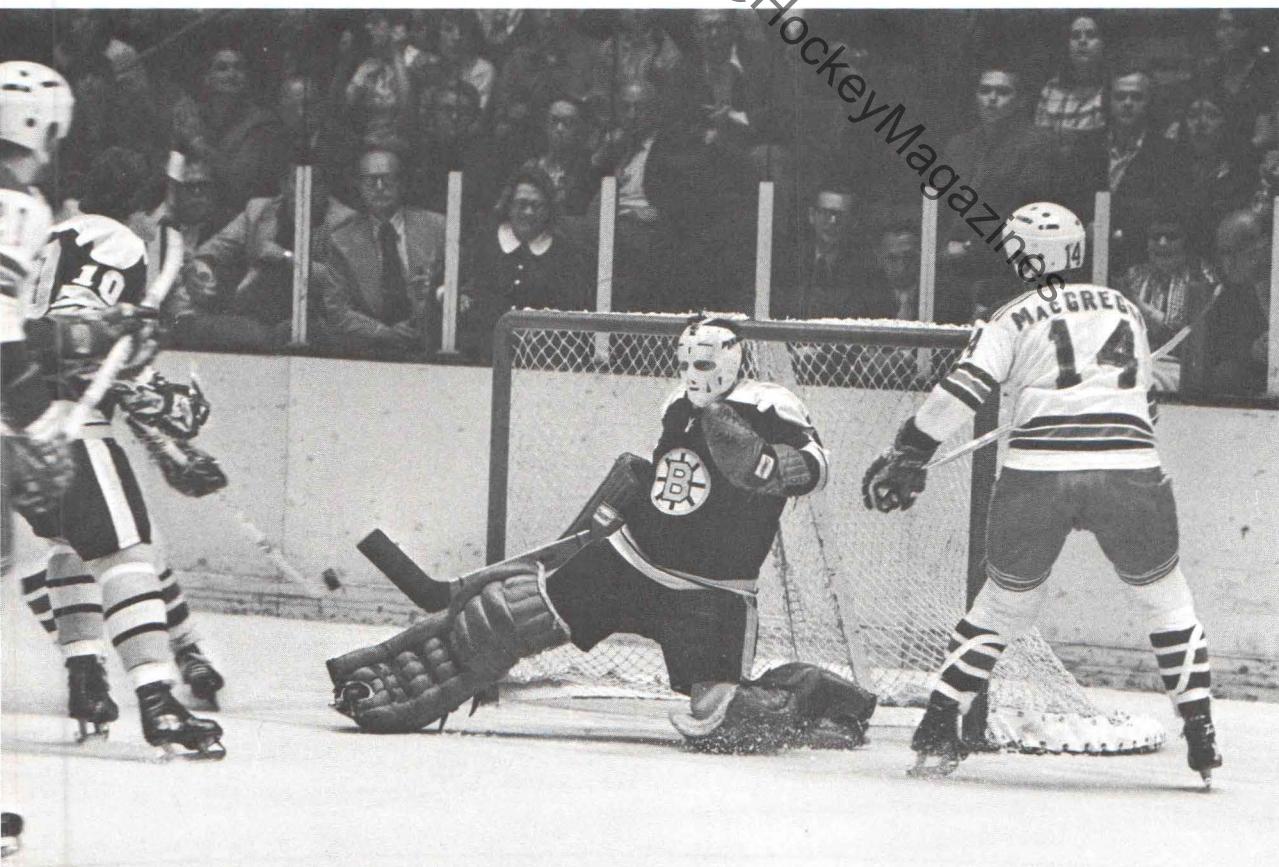
Aware that there are no Boston defense-
men between himself and the Ranger,
Johnston knows that he must snare the
puck and prevent any rebound. As Mac-
gregor swoops in for the hoped-for kill,
Johnston reaches low with his left glove
and grabs the hot rubber . . .





A burning shot can sometimes force the goalie to drop the puck and MacGregor knows this. He stands by waiting for just such a development but Johnston holds tight . . .

He gingerly lifts his glove to his chest, secure in the knowledge that the referee's whistle is about to blow, halting play. Defenseman Carol Vadnais (l.) reaches the scene while the disconsolate MacGregor watches another potential goal disappear.





Trouble along the sideboards.

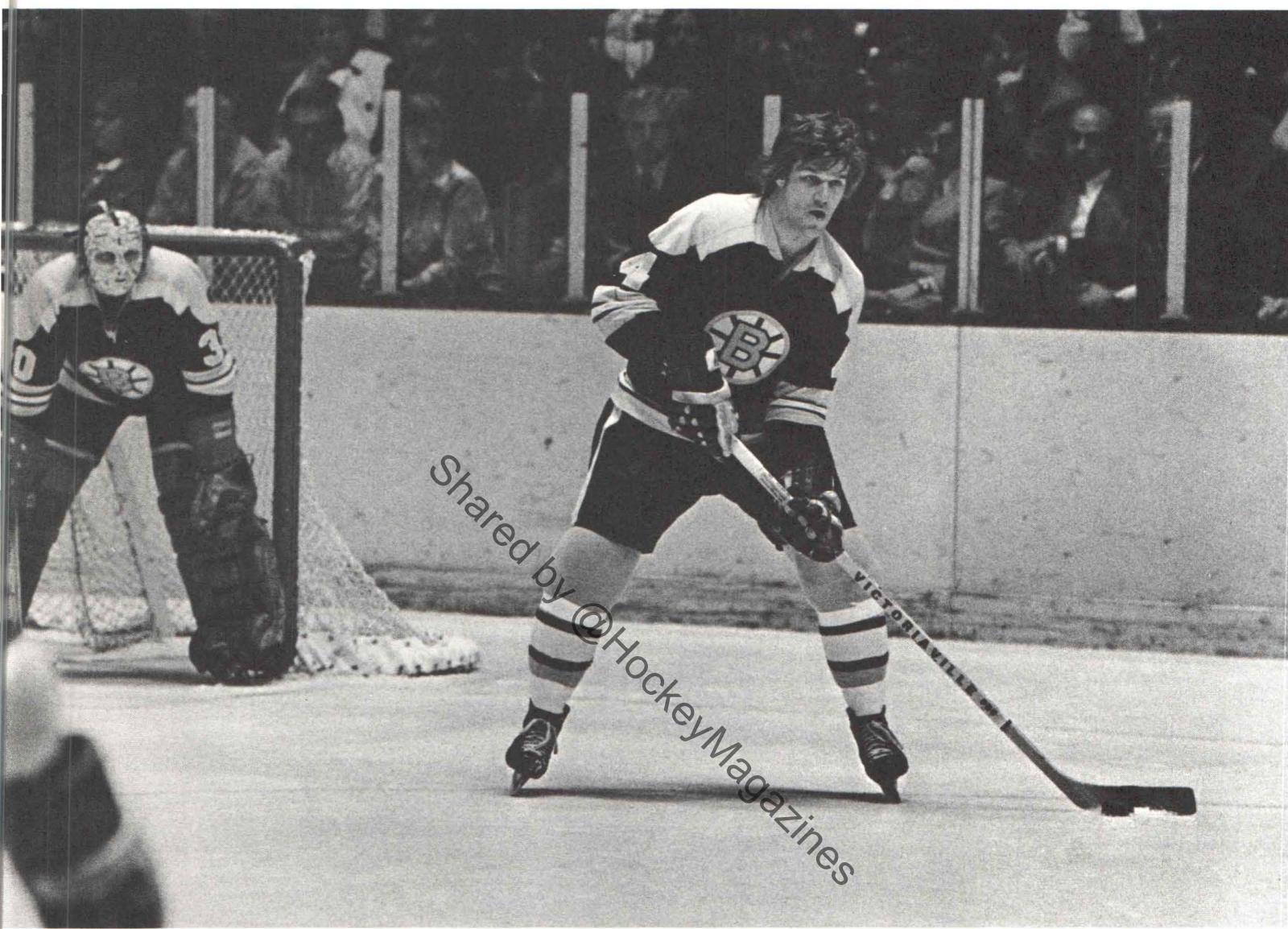
Jump with joy—another winning game in Boston Garden. Esposito, Hodge and Cashman embrace joyously while Vadnais moves in for a hug.





Shared by @HockeyMagazines



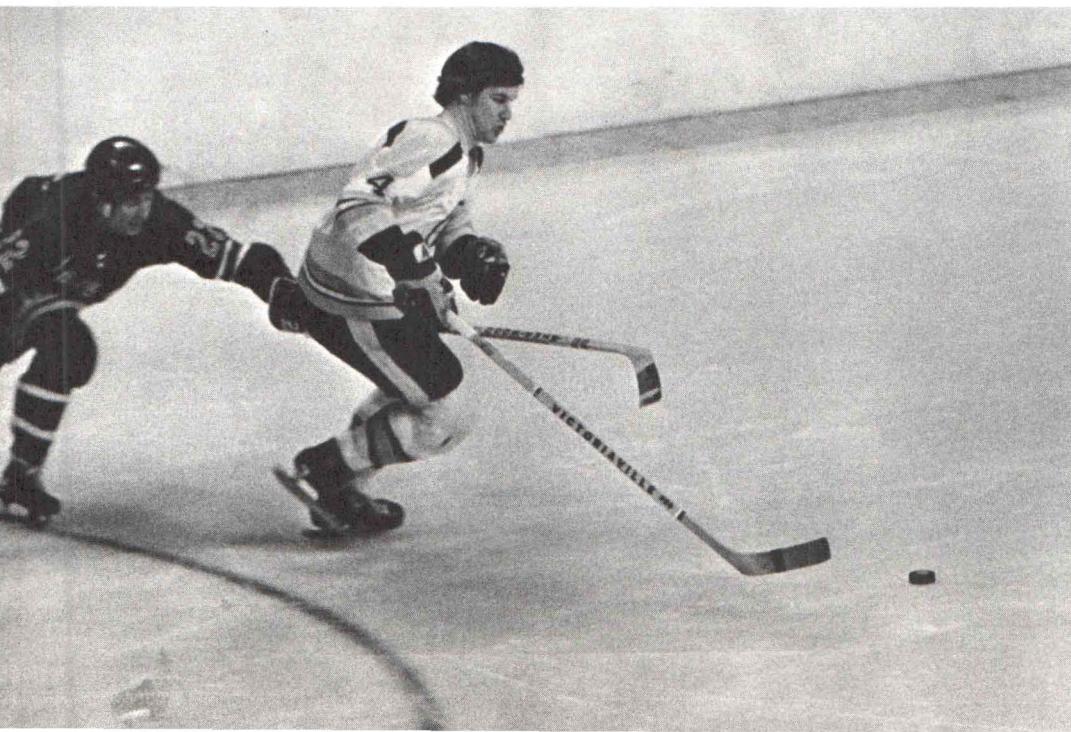


Bobby eyes the scene ahead as he prepares to move the puck.

Bobby Rousseau reaches out to stop the other Bobby.



A hard skate down the ice.





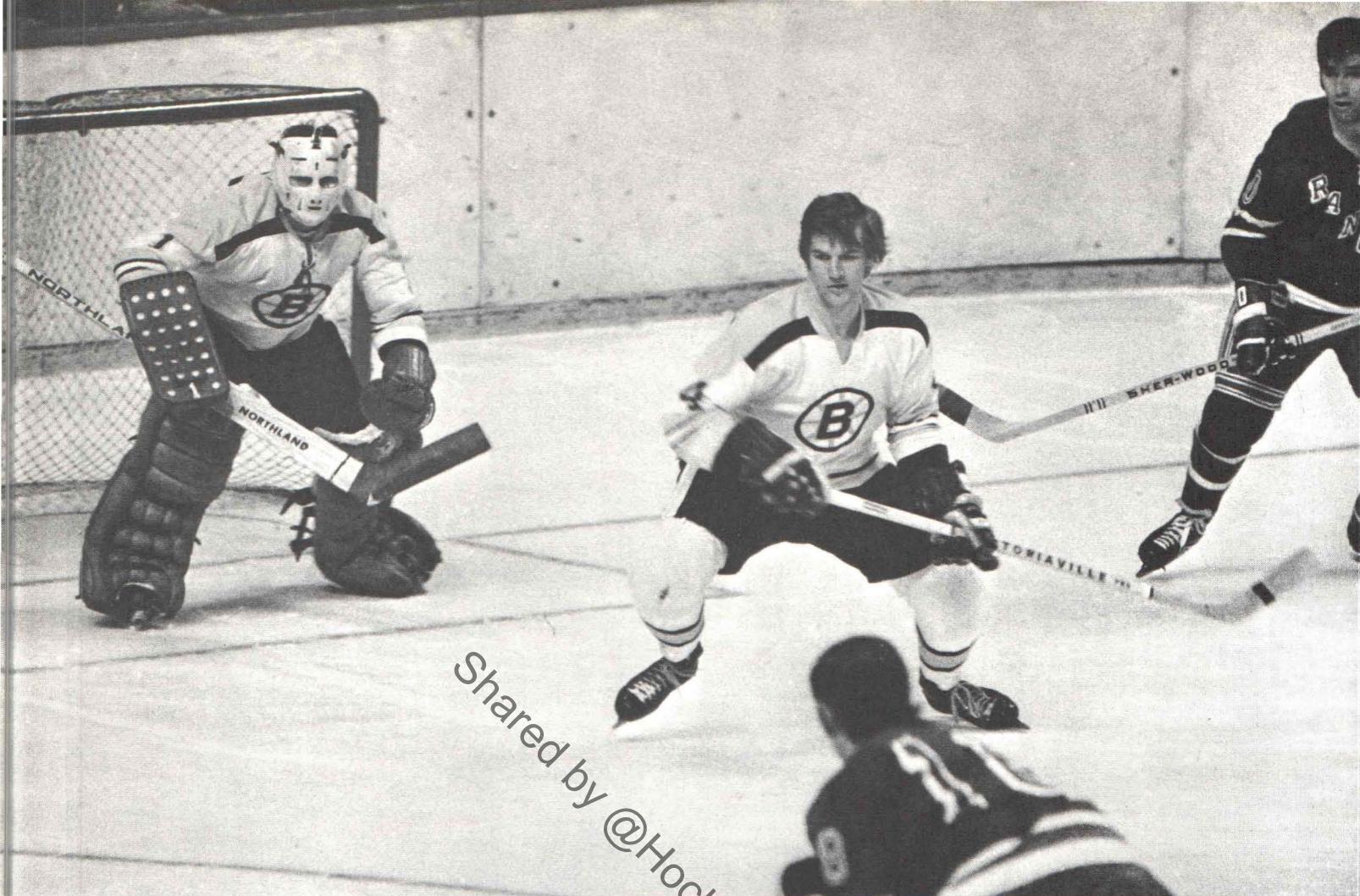
Wayne Cashman shoots but it looks like
an easy one for Walt Tkaczuk.

Ace Bailey runs into a roadblock,
named Vic Hadfield.



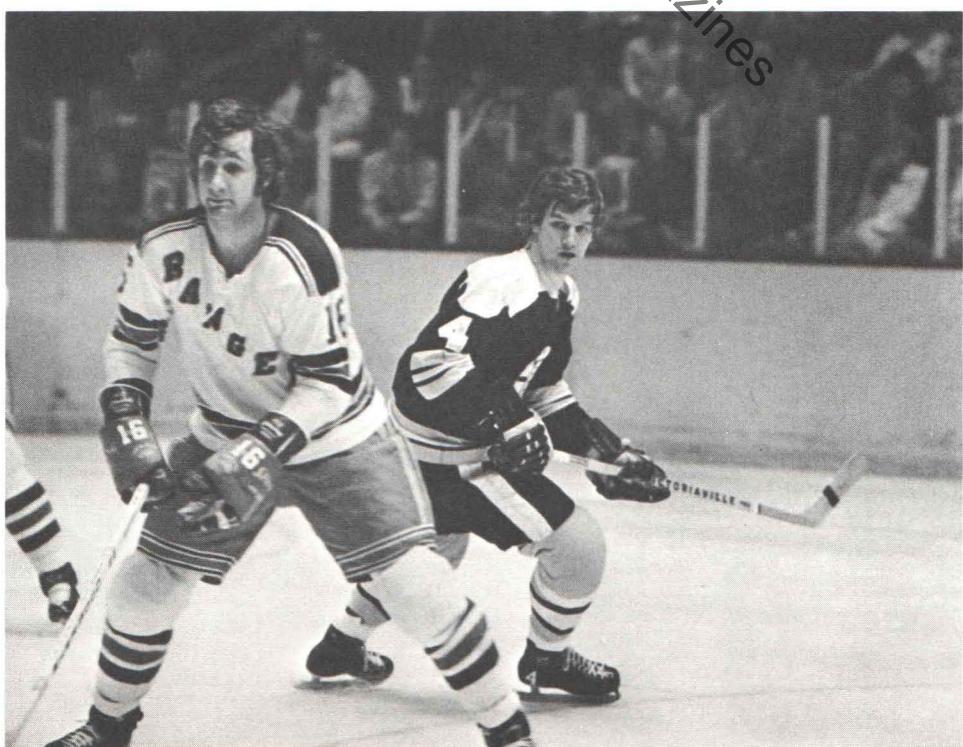


Don Awrey (26) looks as if the puck is his as Rangers Seiling, Rolfe and Stempkowski view the action with consternation and Don Marcotte (21, in background) awaits a possible pass.

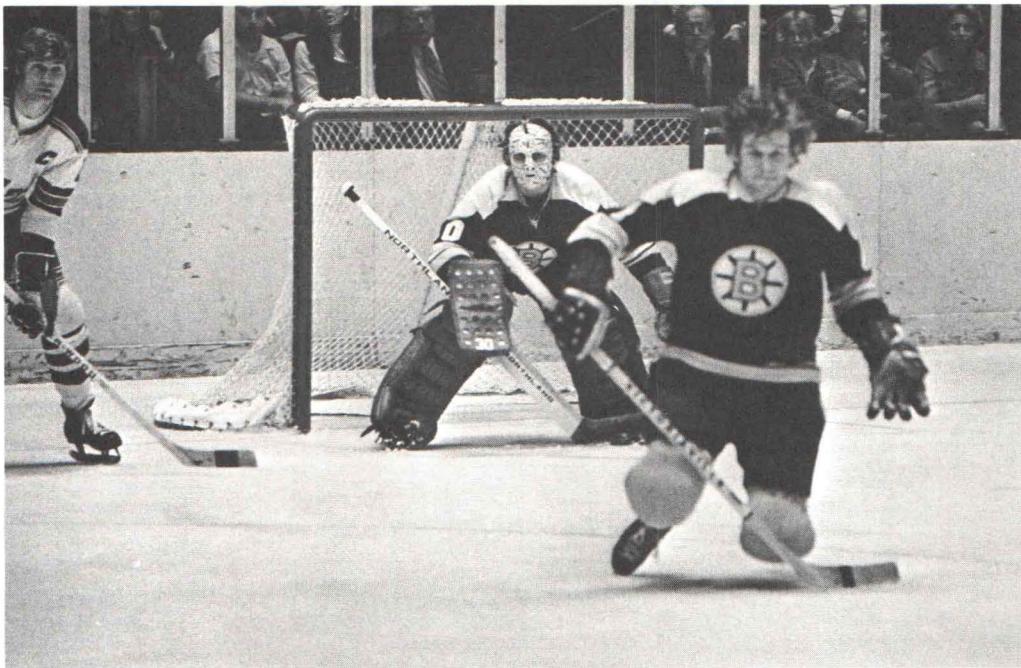


Bobby Orr breaking up a two-man Ranger rush

Shared by @HockeyMagazines

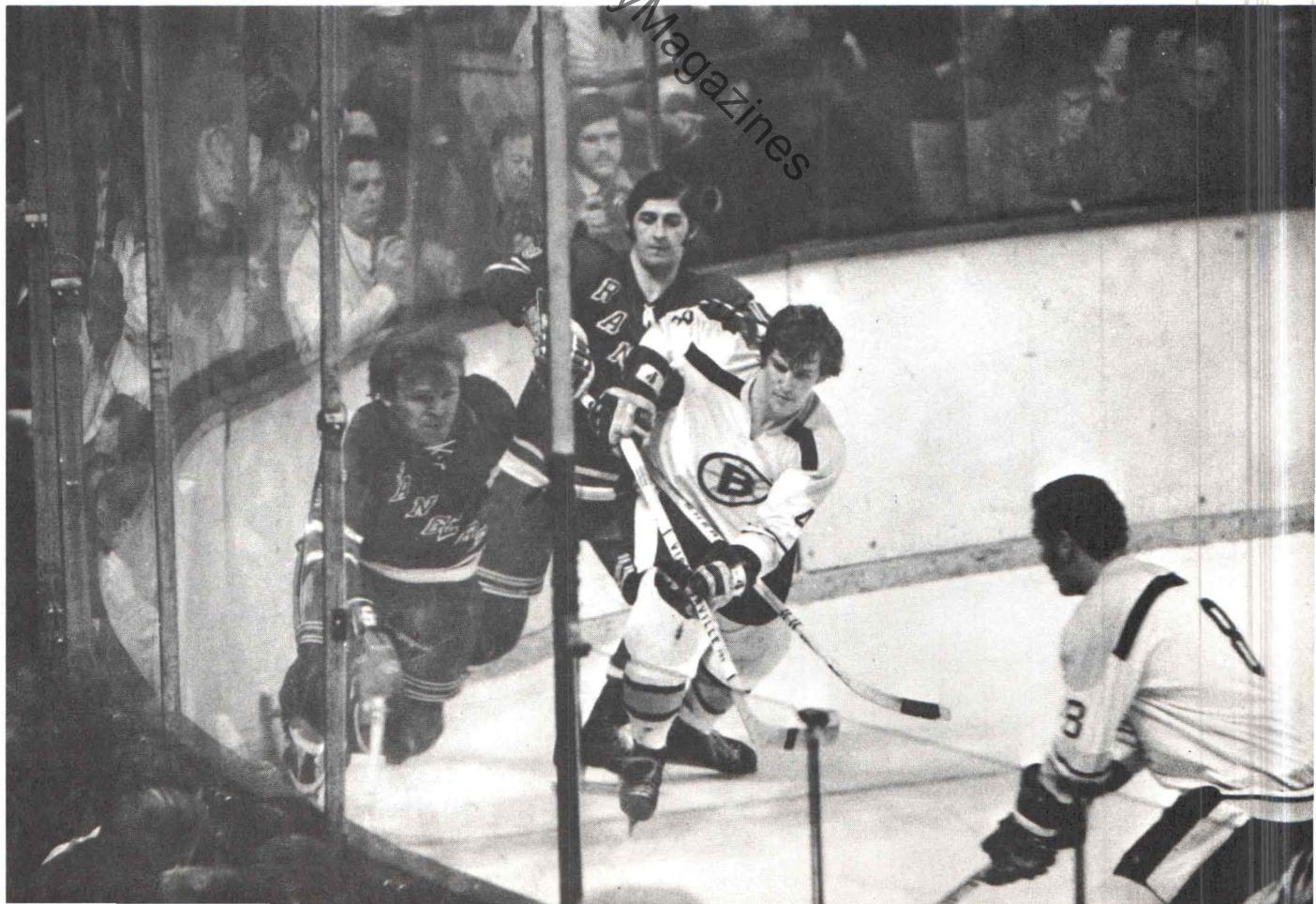


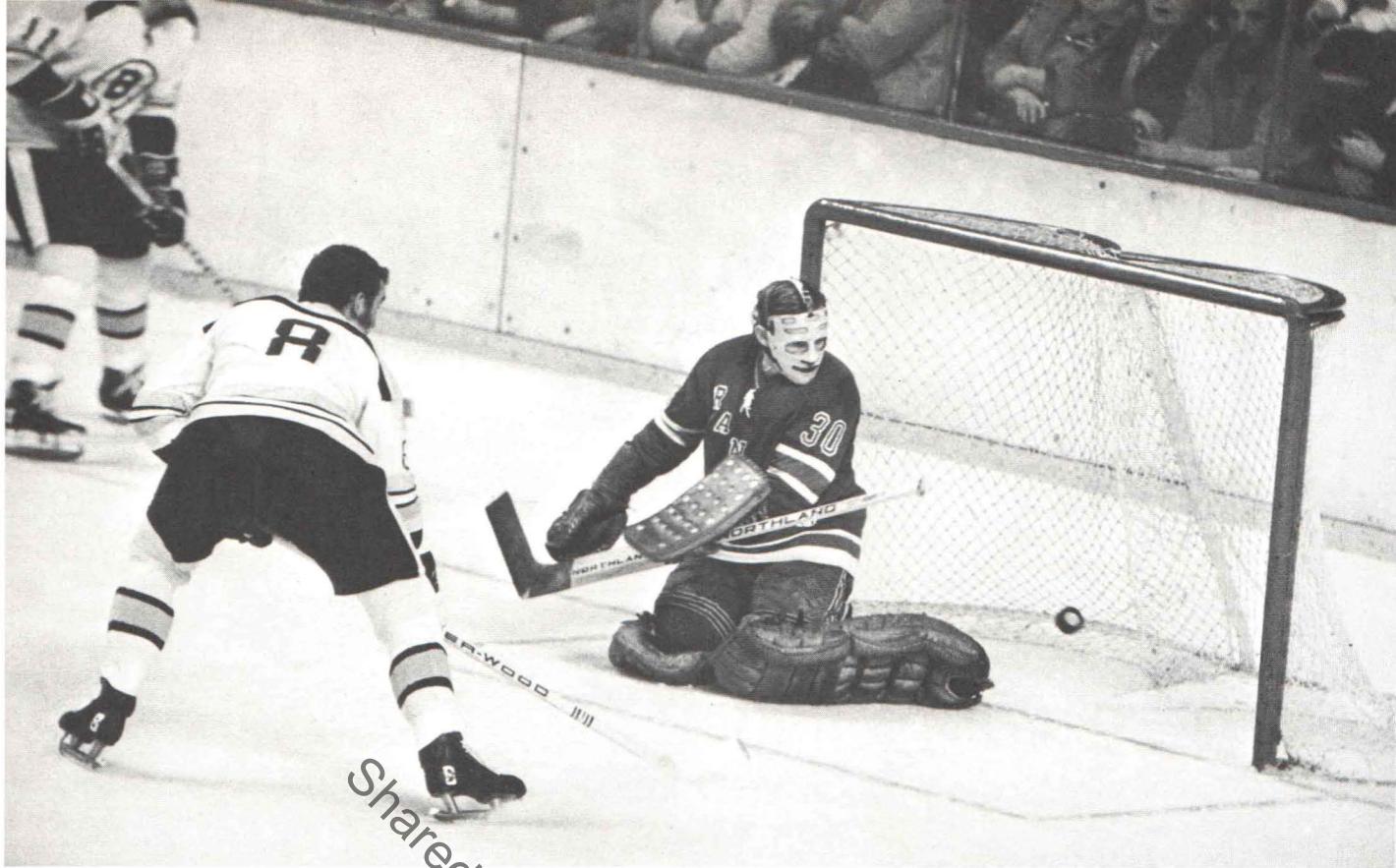
. . . outflanking Rangers defenseman Rod Seiling



... playing "second goaltender"

helping Ken Hodge in the corner.





Shared by @HockeyMagazines



APPLYING THE KILL . . . Few National Hockey League players are as potent around the enemy net as big Ken Hodge. His Promethean strength enables him to shoo away opposing defensemen as one would brush a mosquito off one's sleeve. Here Ken has worked himself free in front of the New York net to take Mike Walton's perfectly-timed pass and fire it toward the right corner of the net, left unguarded by Rangers goalie Gilles Ville-mure . . .



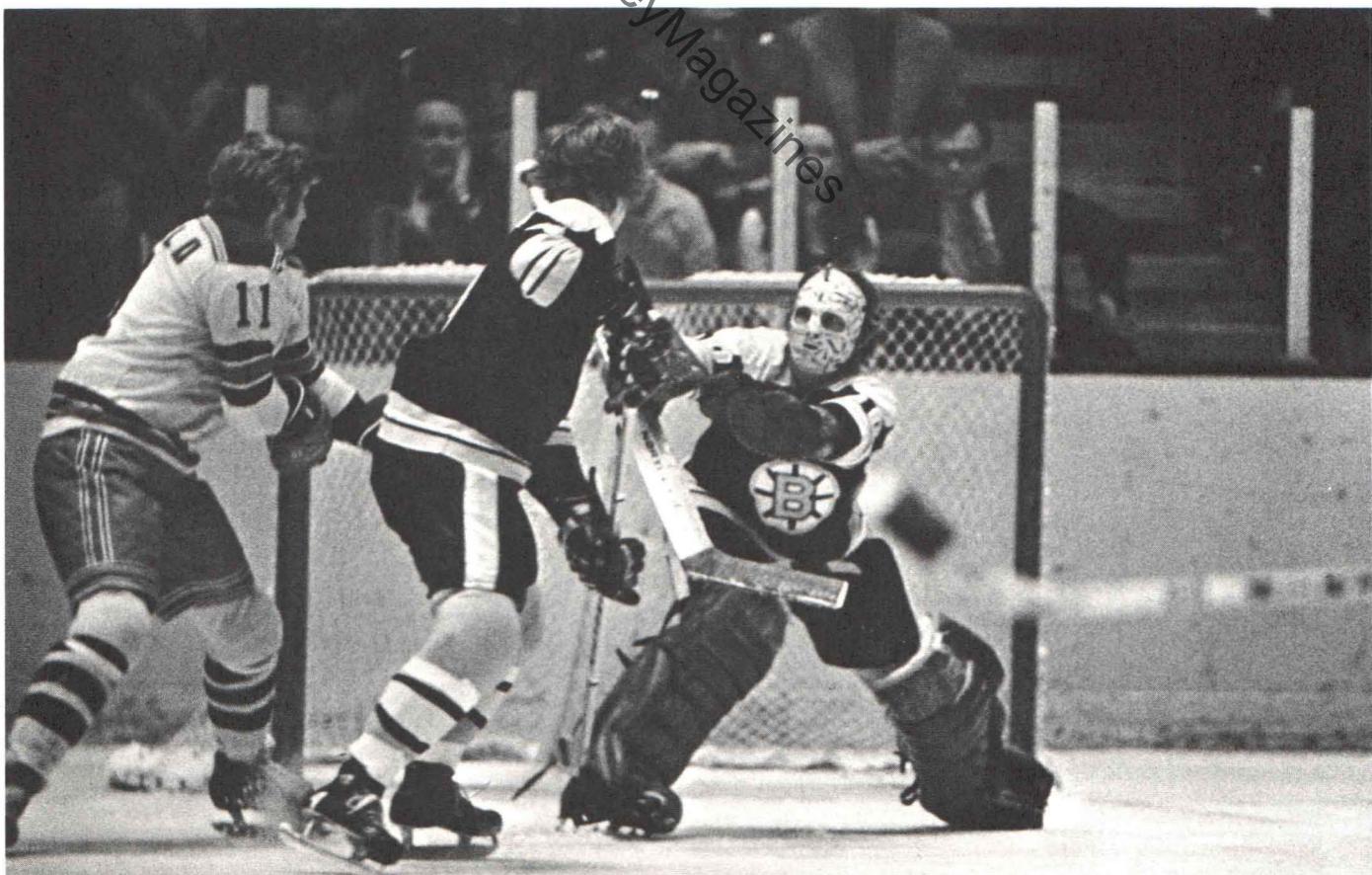
Result—ecstacy! Walton outleaps his teammate Hodge in celebration of the score. Neilson takes a good look at the reason why; also confirmed by Villemure.

The puck has hit the twine behind Villemure as Ranger defenseman Jim Neilson (l.) rushes, too late, to the rescue. The playmaker, Mike Walton, cruises behind the net and has just perceived the puck's delightful location over the red goal line . . .



Two thirds of the GAG line in pursuit of the puck.

Vic Hadfield and two determined Bruins.



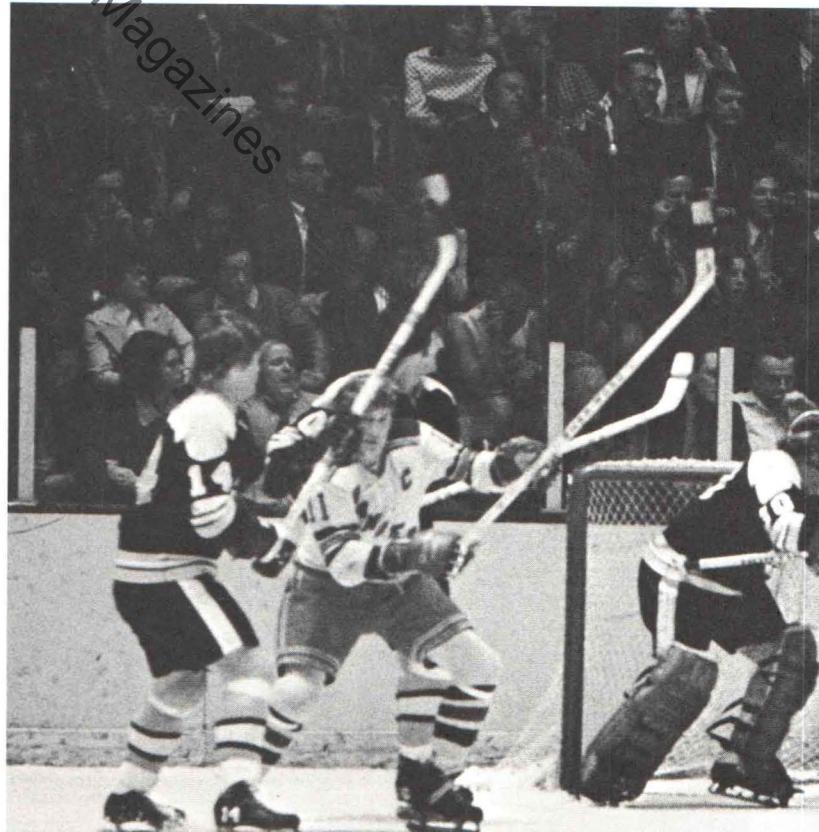


Someone is about to shoot our way.



The puck is in the net but the realization that the Bruins have scored again hasn't penetrated yet.

Shared by @HockeyMagazines





Protecting the corner: Bobby Orr (4) and Ace Bailey (14) rush to the rescue of goalie Ed Johnston who is protecting the corner against Rod Gilbert.



Action around the Bruins' crease.

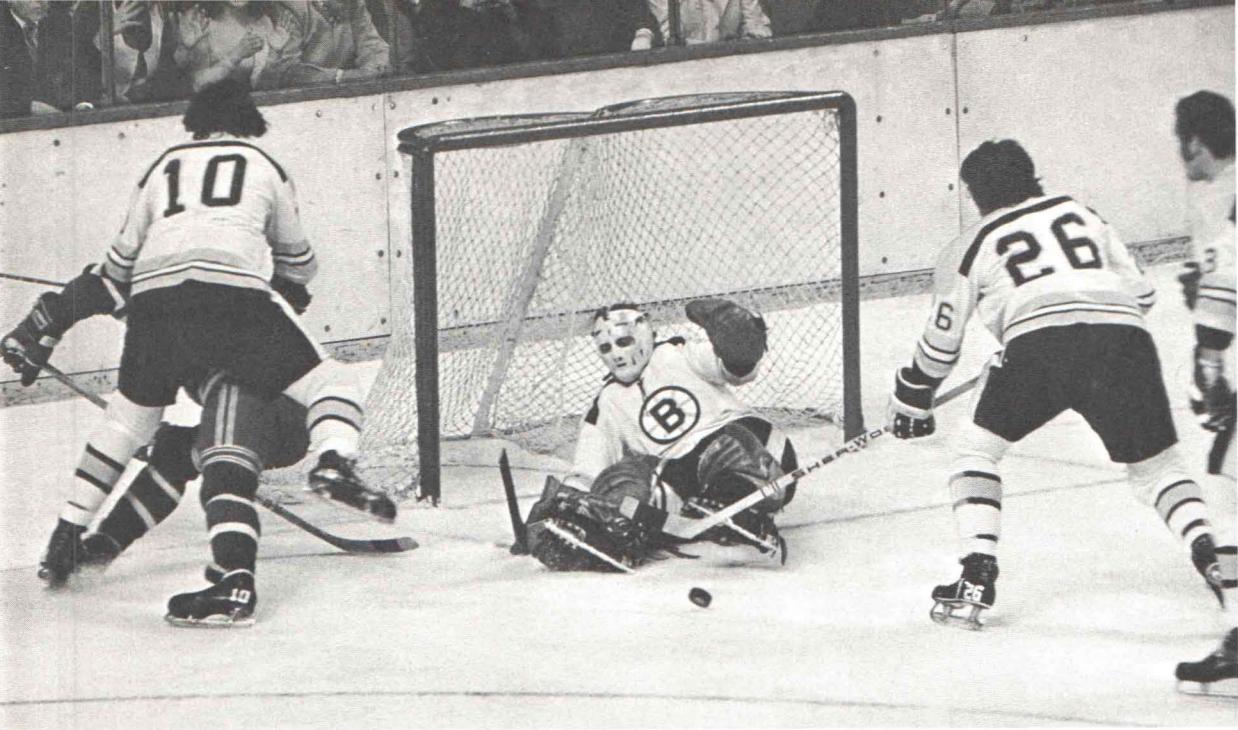


Ken Hodge waits expectantly in front of the Rangers' goal.

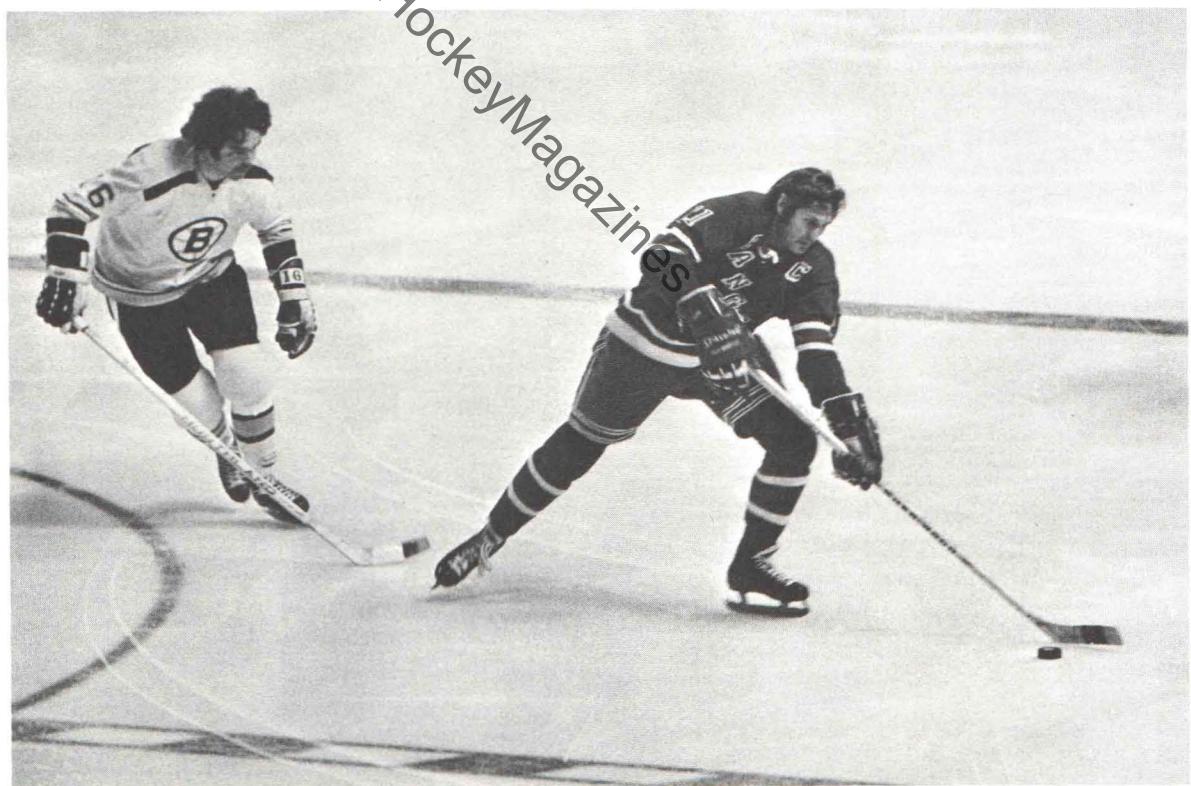
Shared by @HockeyMagazines

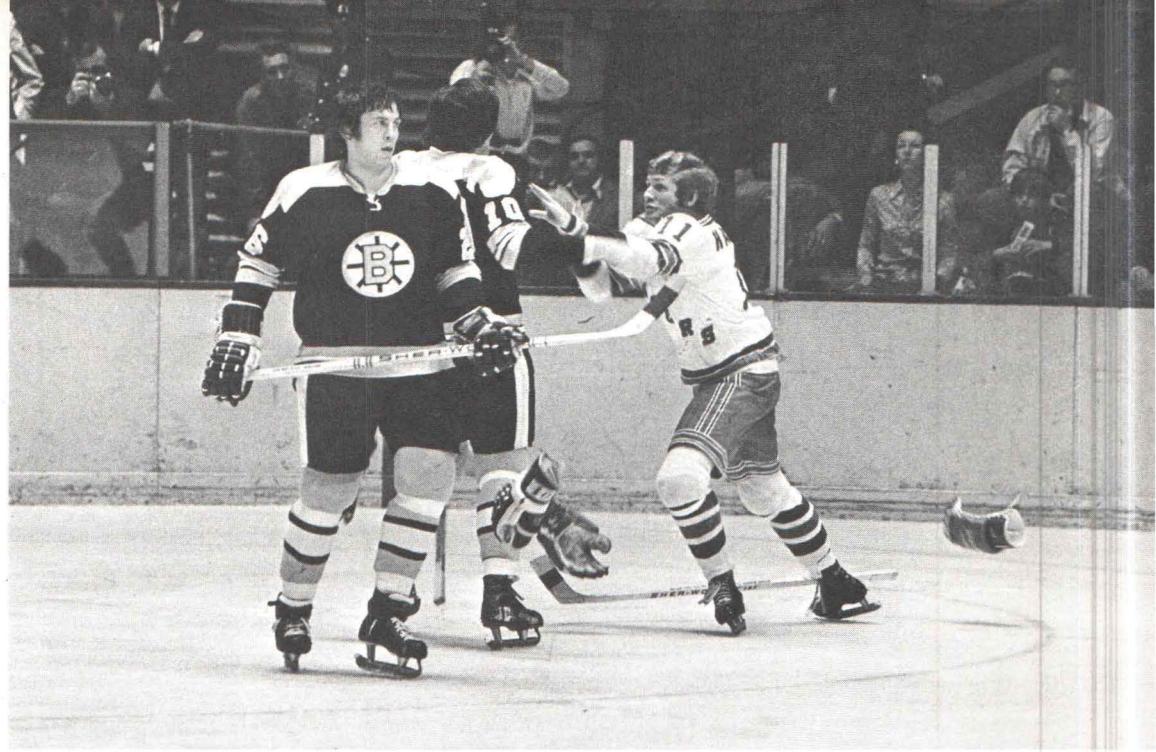


Shared by @HockeyMagazines



Goalie Ed Johnston is helped to the puck by defenseman Don Awrey who will shove the puck between Johnston's legs to bring about a face-off.





The beginning of a fight—Vic Hadfield and Carol Vadnais drop their gloves and square off.

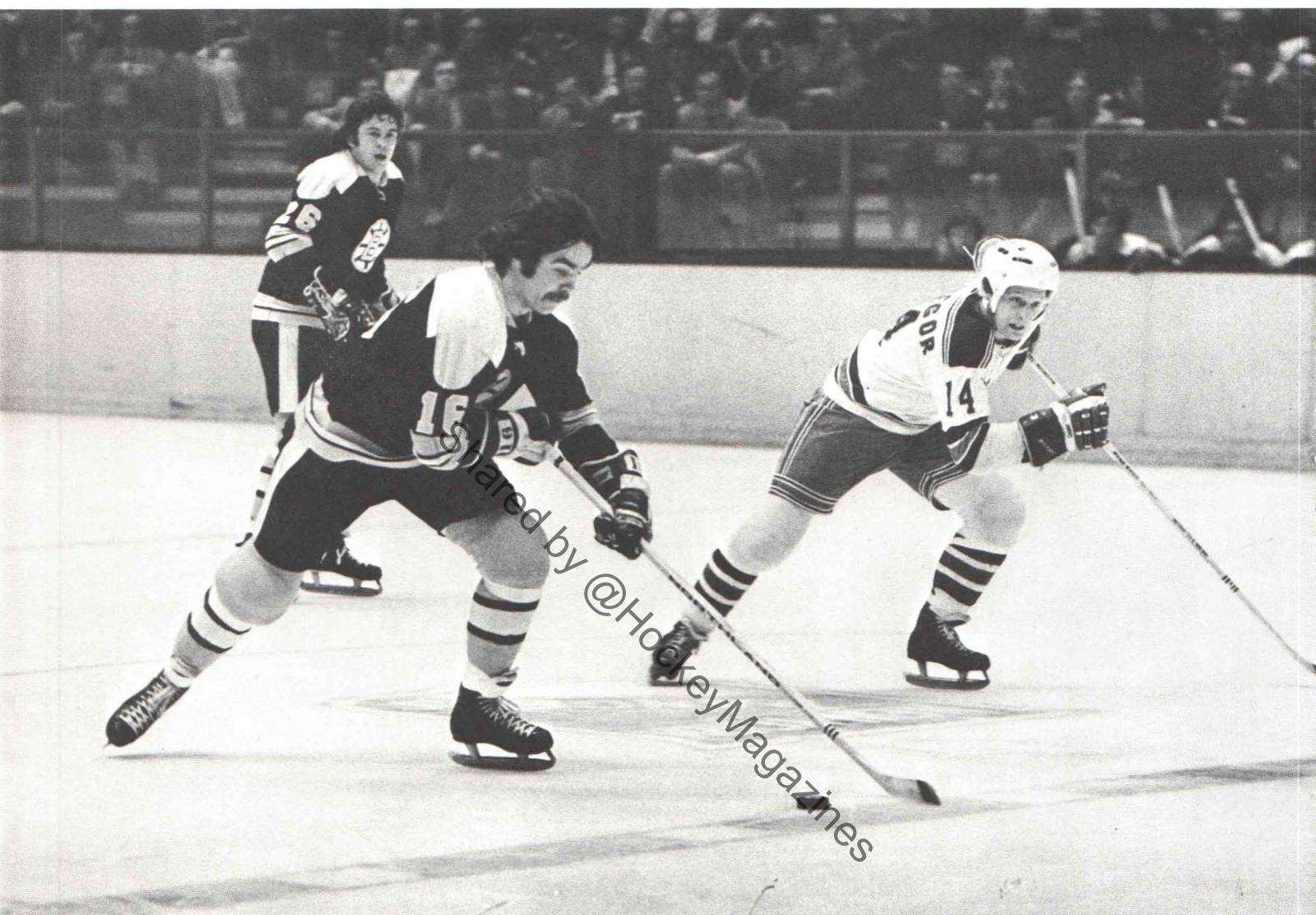
Shared by @HockeyMagazines





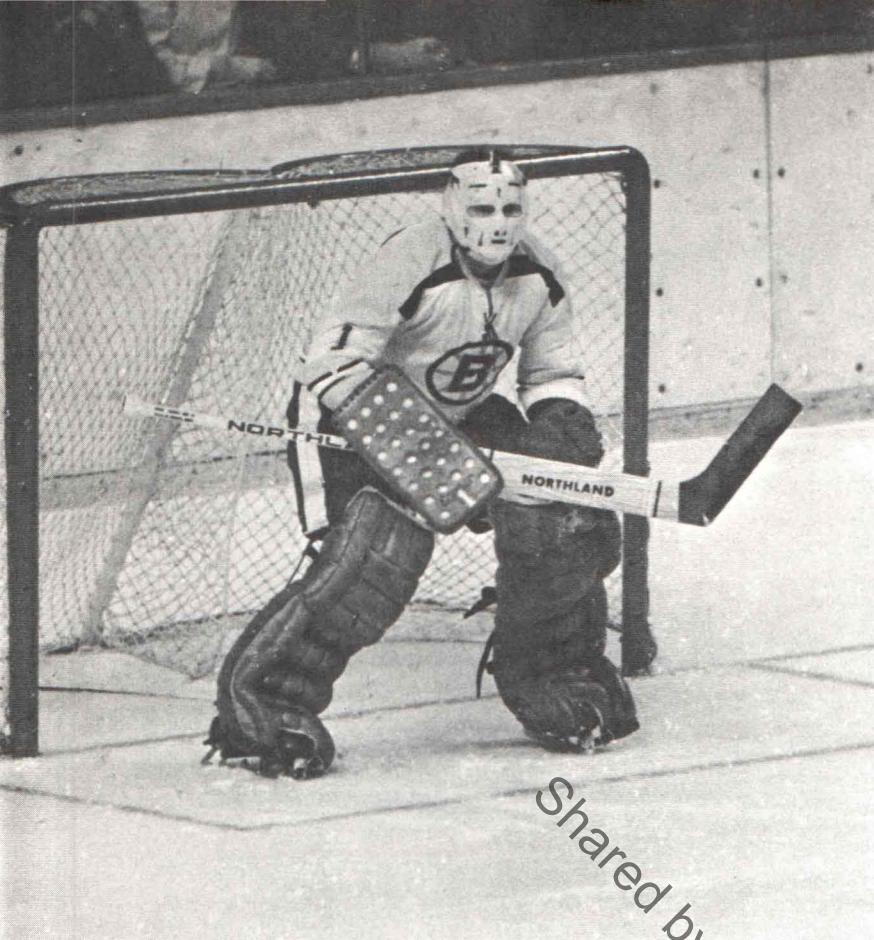
Brad Park's shot flies wide of the inviting Bruins' net.



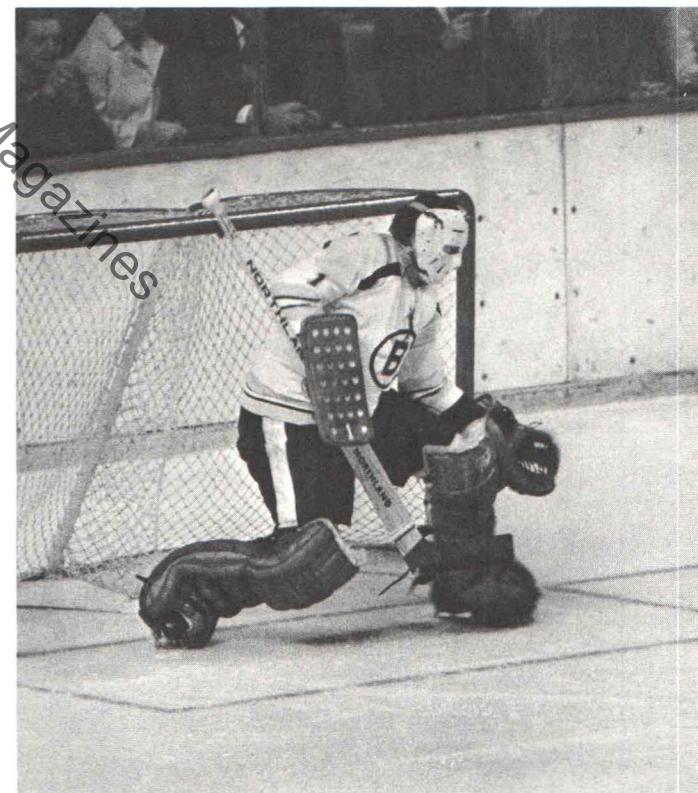
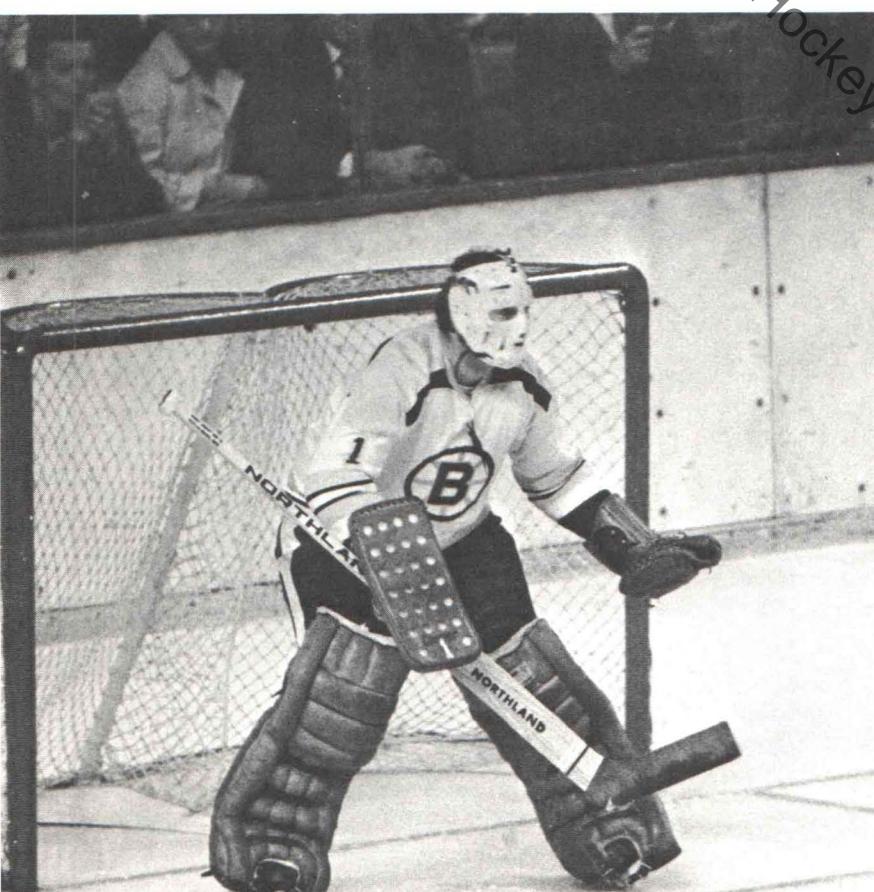


Derek Sanderson controls the puck as Bruce MacGregor attempts to outskate him. Don Awrey observes the action.



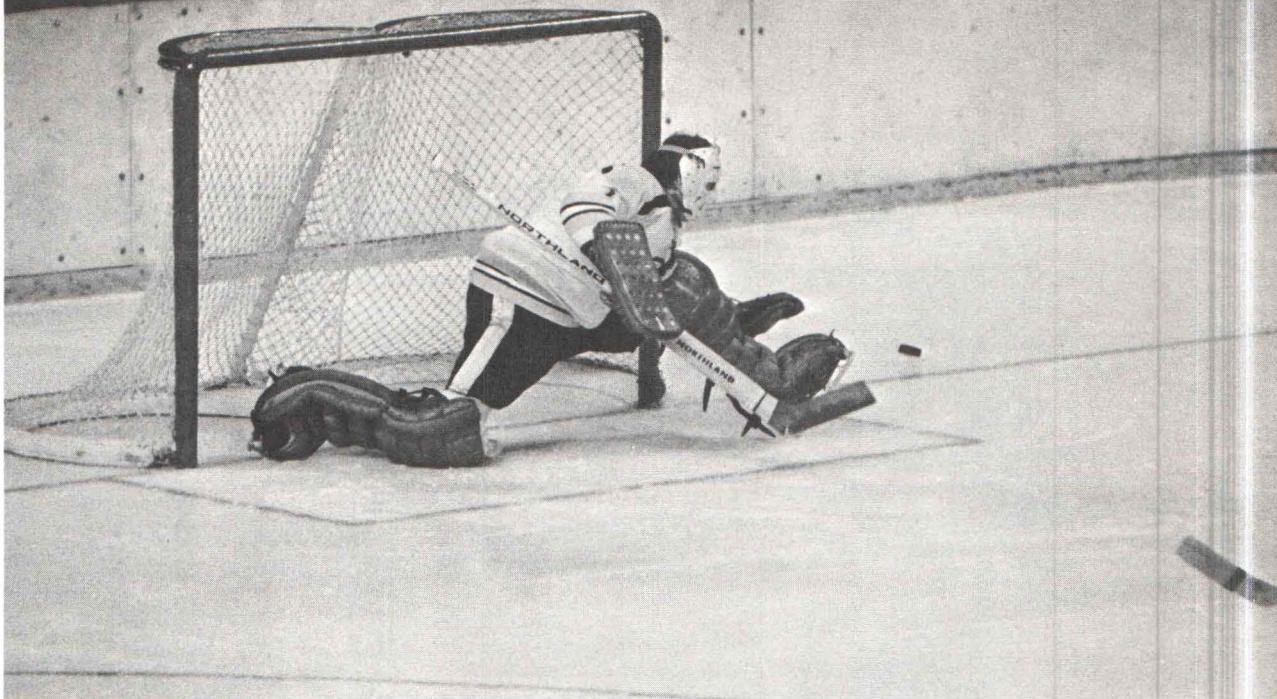


Shared by @HockeyMagazines

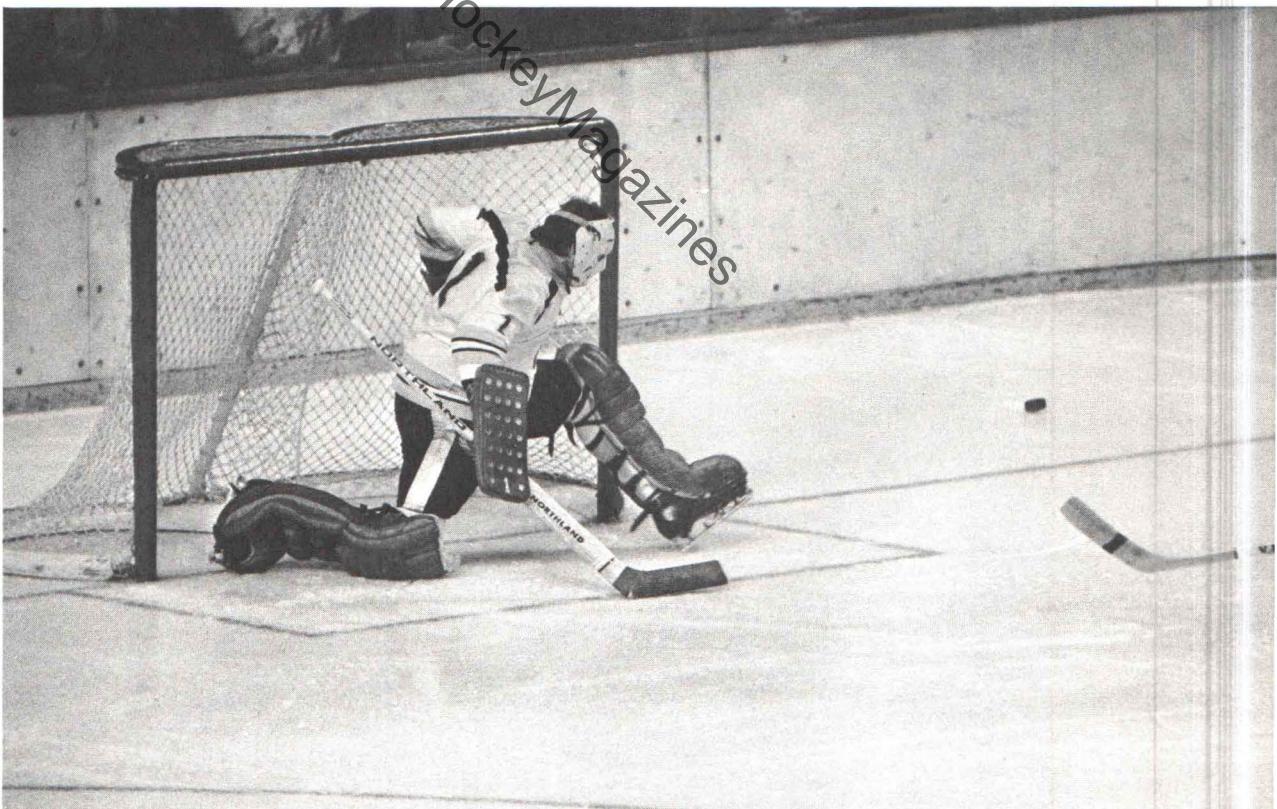


THE BEGINNING AND END OF A SAVE.

Goalie Ed Johnston braces for the shot...coming to his left...his catching mitt is poised as he punts the rubber out of danger with his left goal pad....The rubber skims harmlessly into the corner thus blunting an enemy attack.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

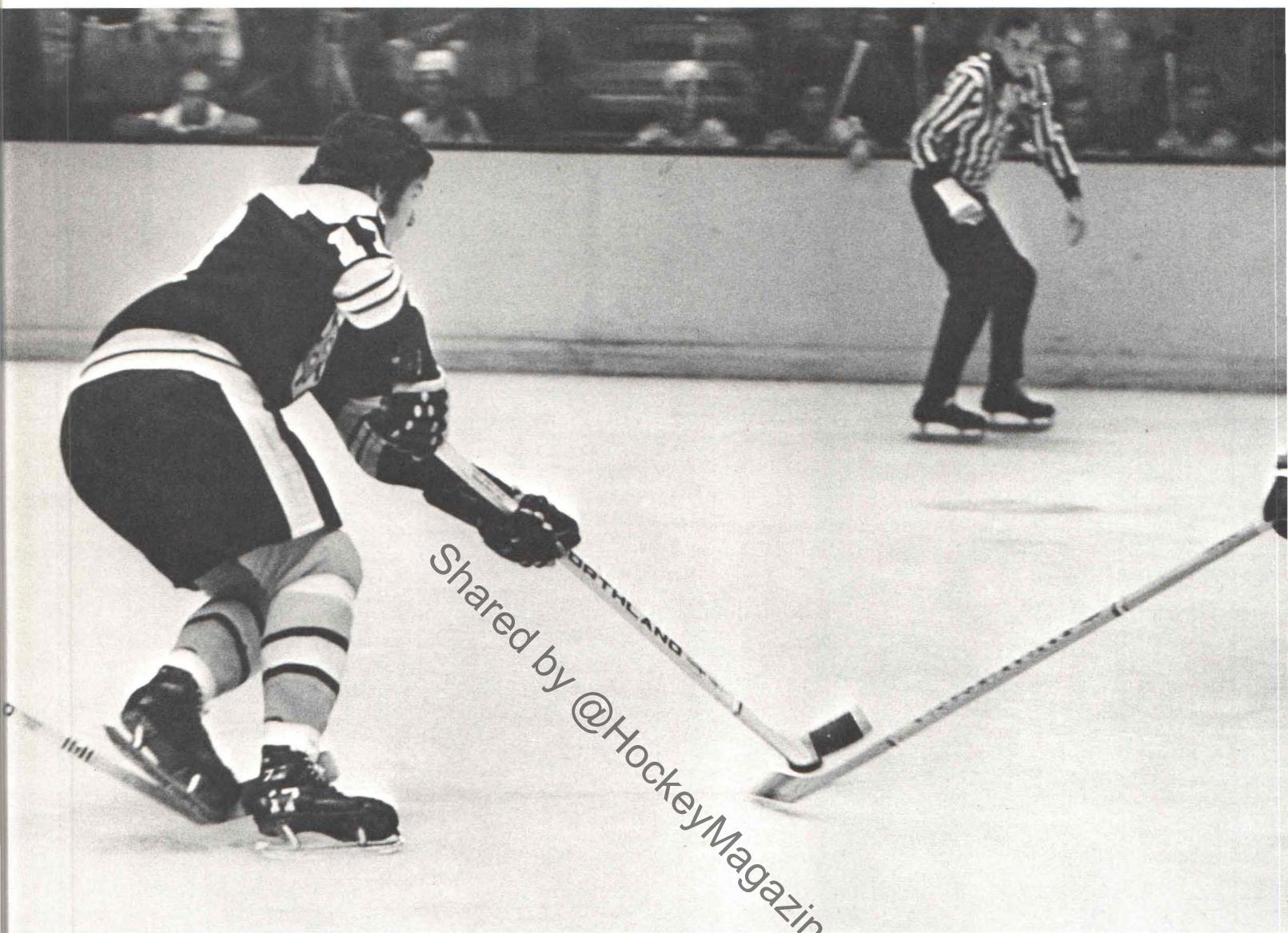




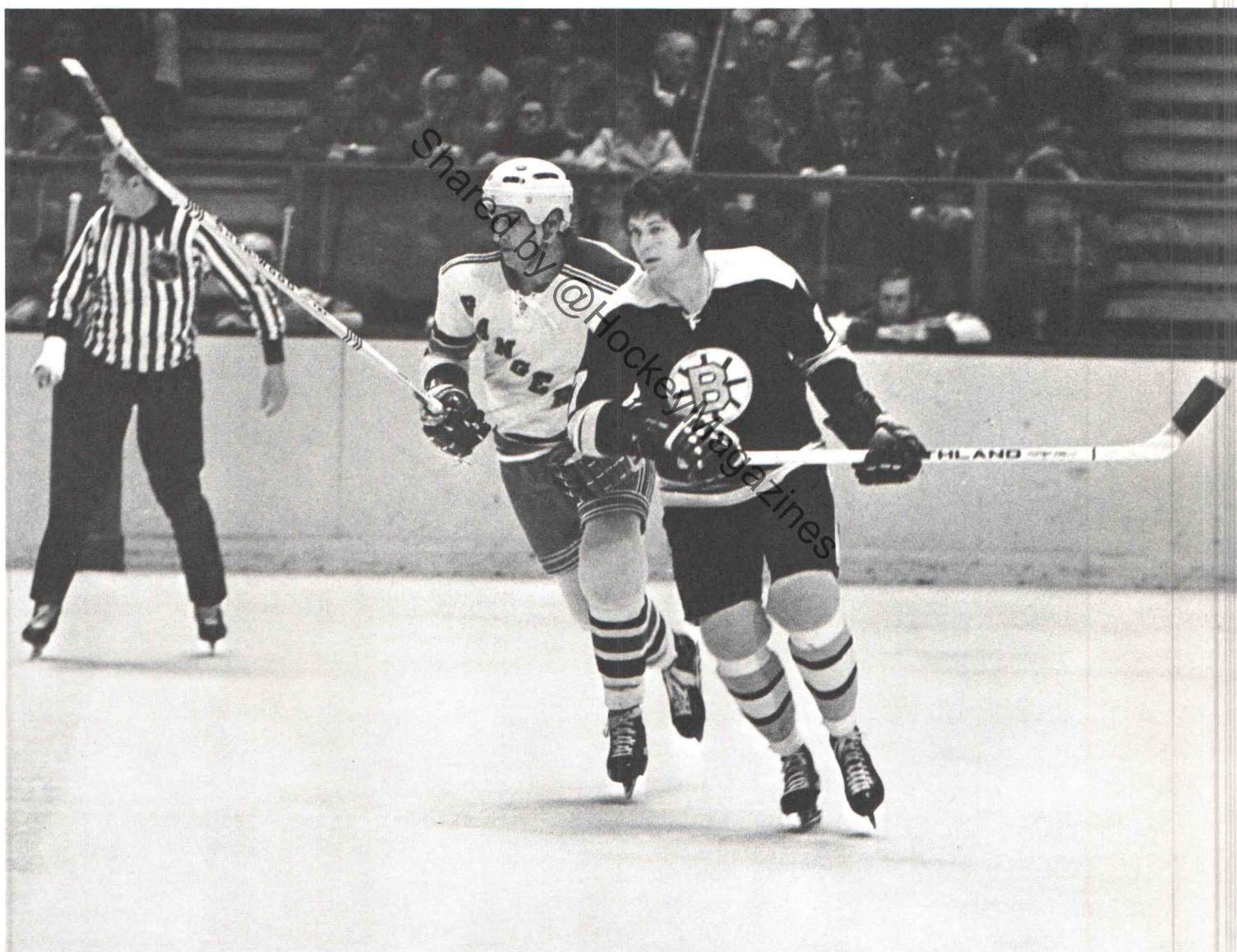


Shared by @HockeyMagazines

Surrounded by Rangers, Esposito makes his goal.

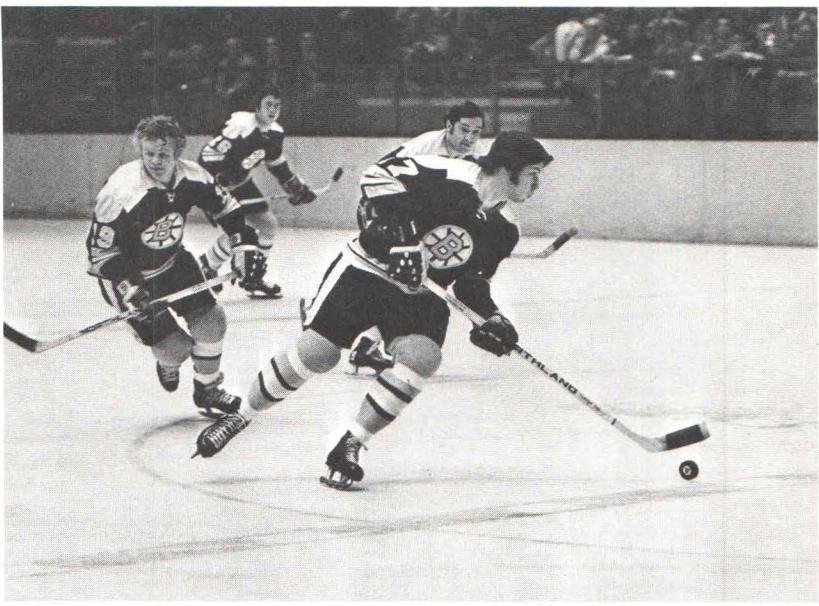


Center Fred Stanfield moves down ice as an opponent attempts to grab the puck.

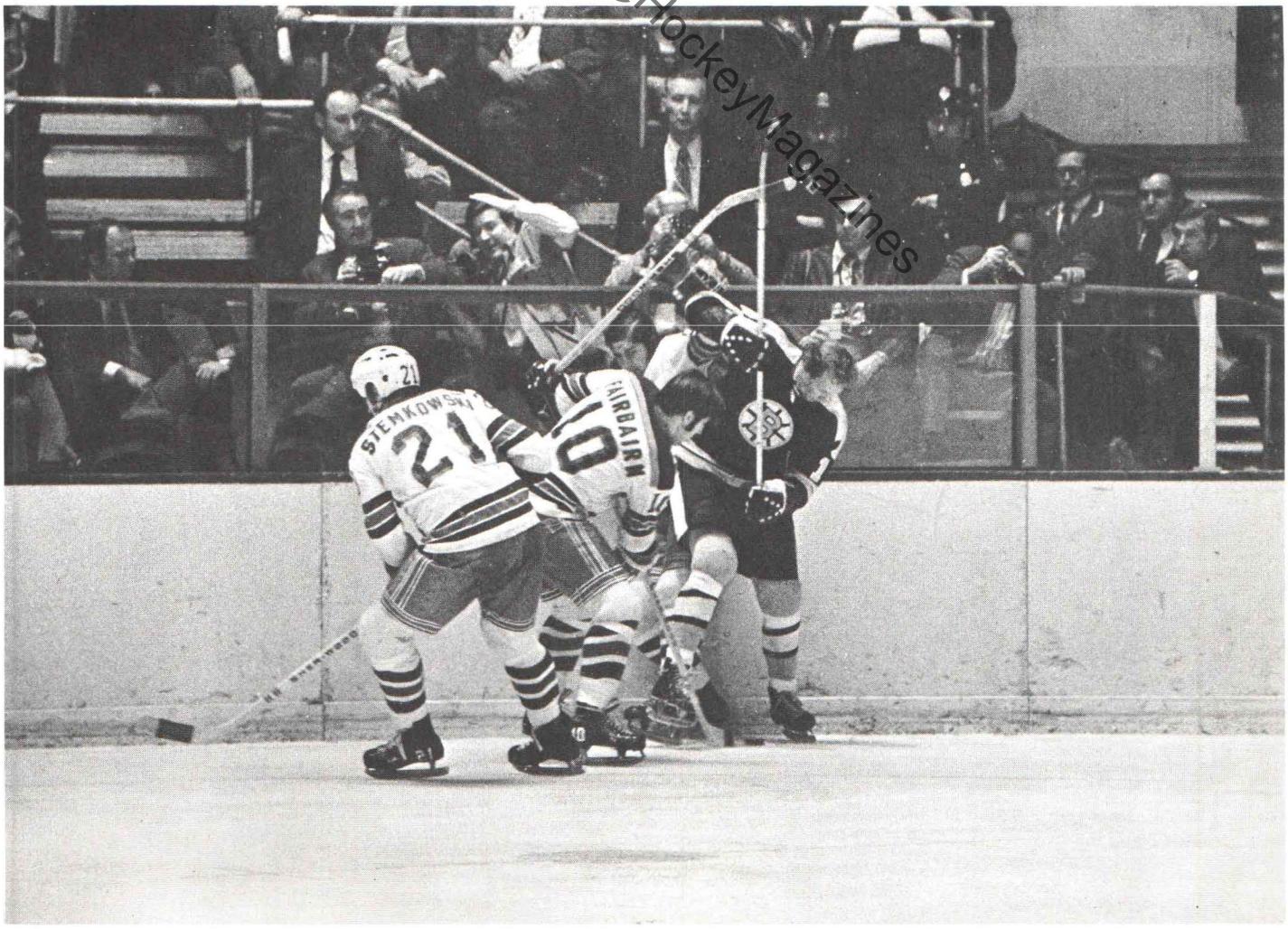




Brad Park and Espo struggle for position



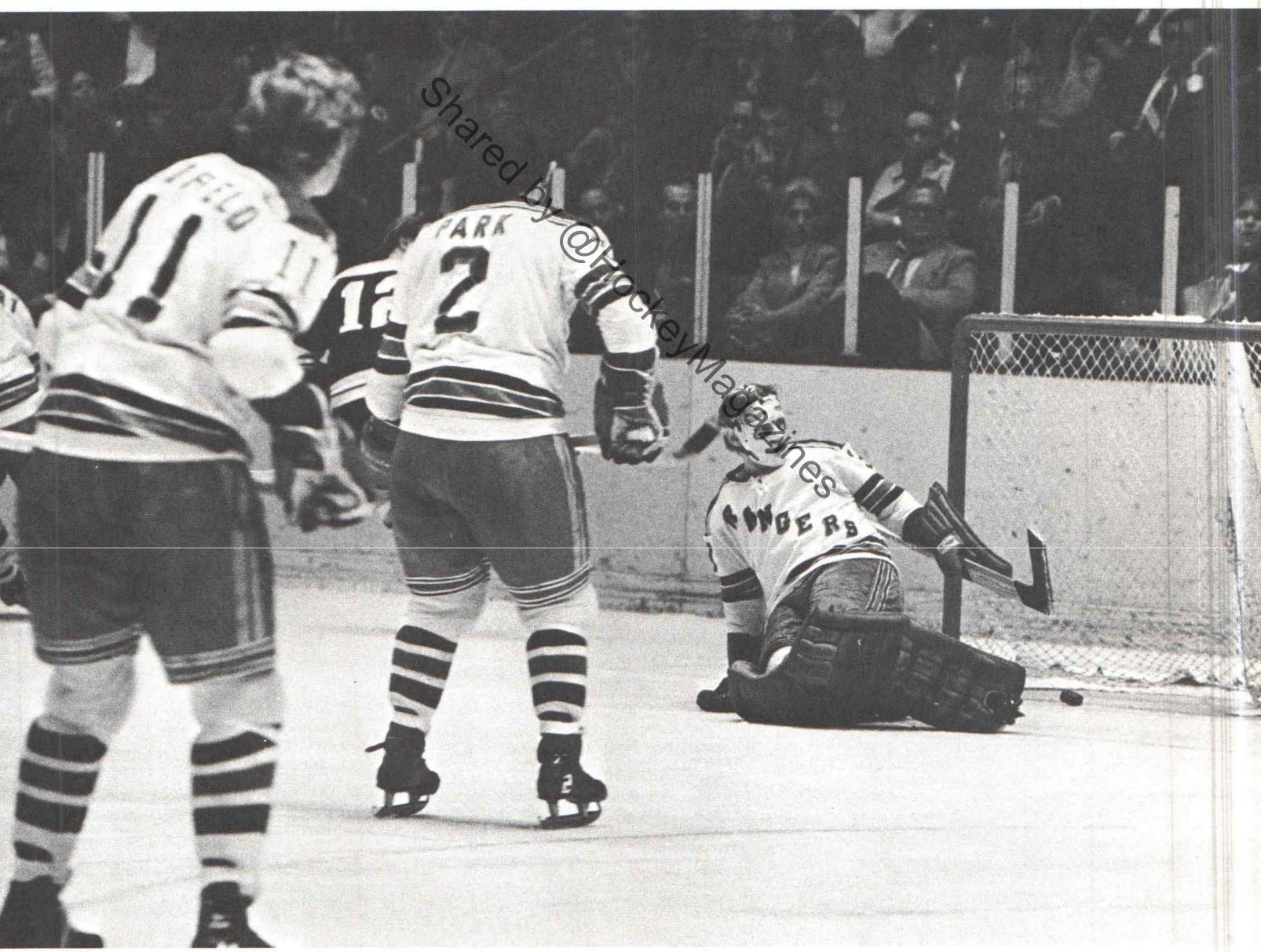
Shared by @HockeyMagazines

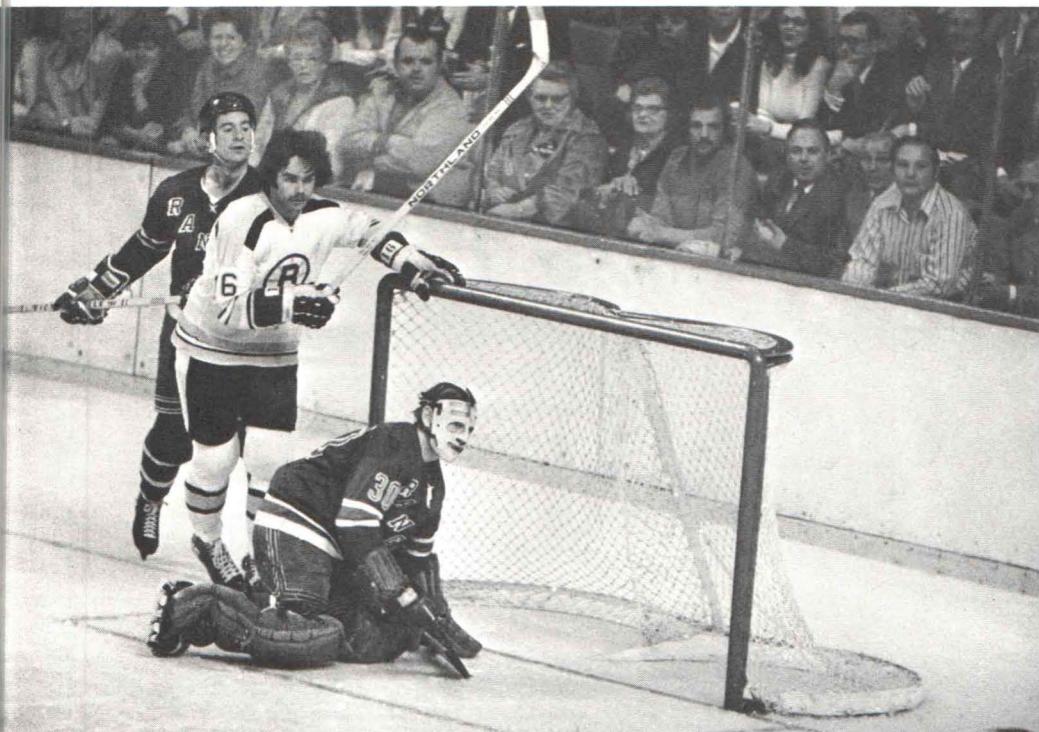




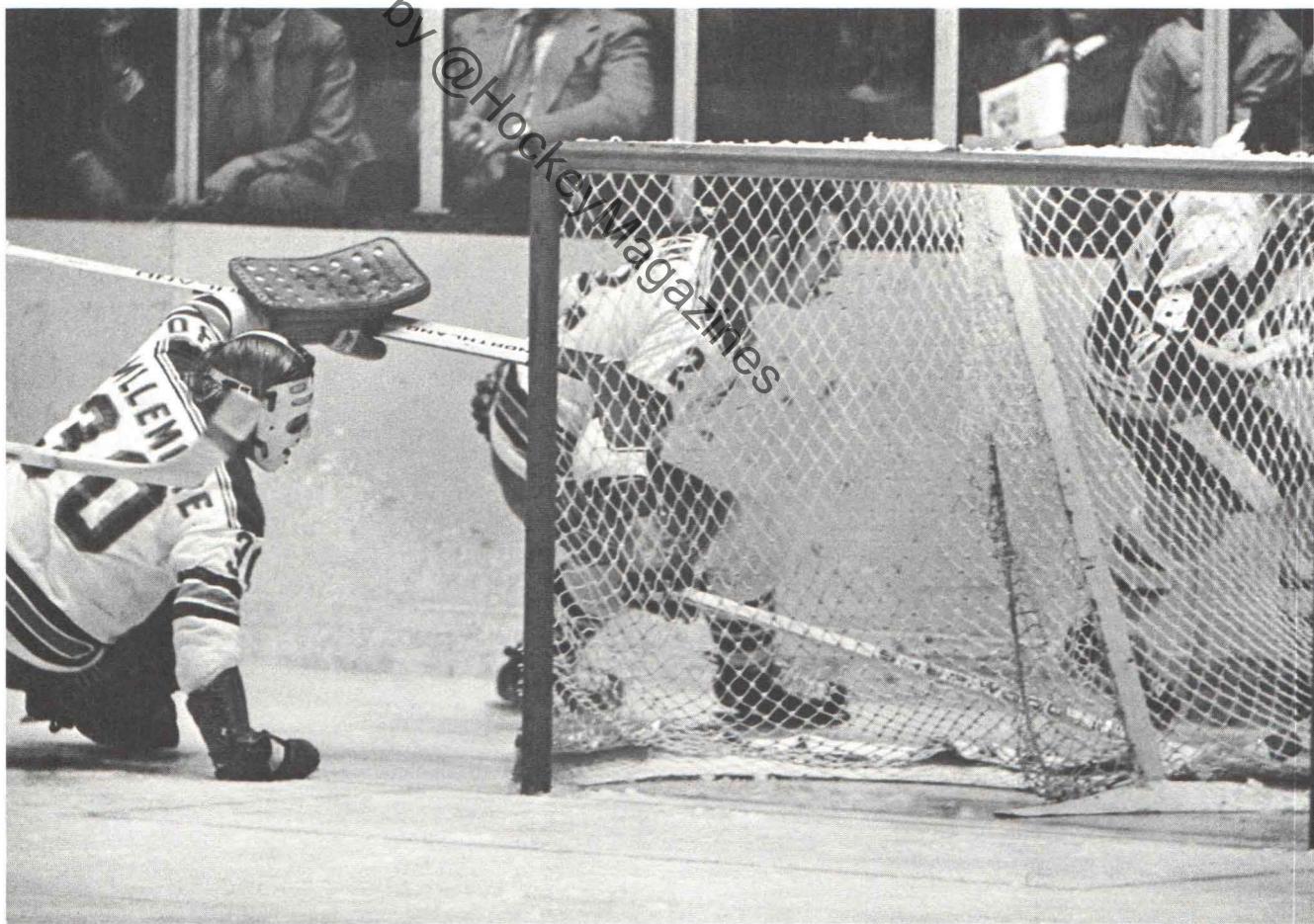
Shared by @HockeyMagazine

Wayne Cashman sails in on Ranger netminder Gilles Villemure as Rod Gilbert (extreme left) tries to check the Bruin left wing. The puck is in as Vic Hadfield and Brad Park arrive too late to help.

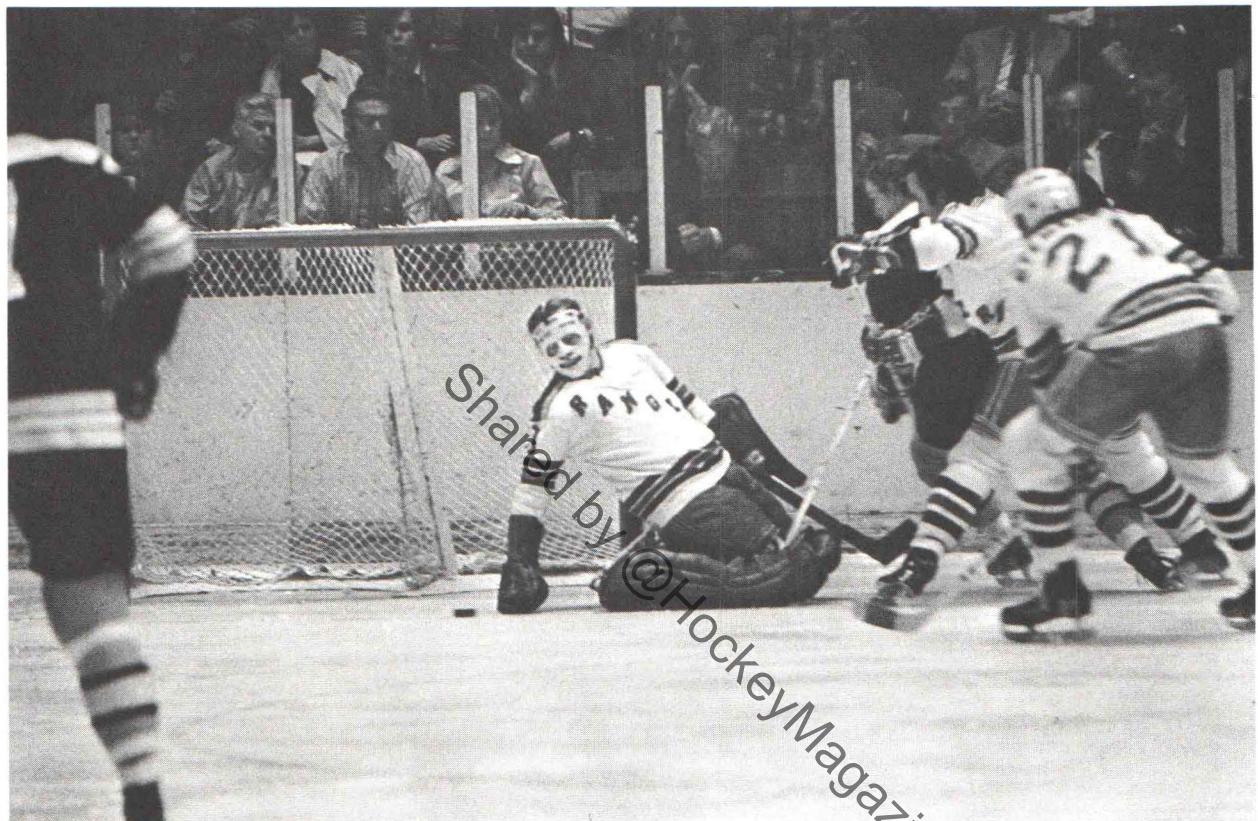




A rather insouciant expression on Deyek's face.



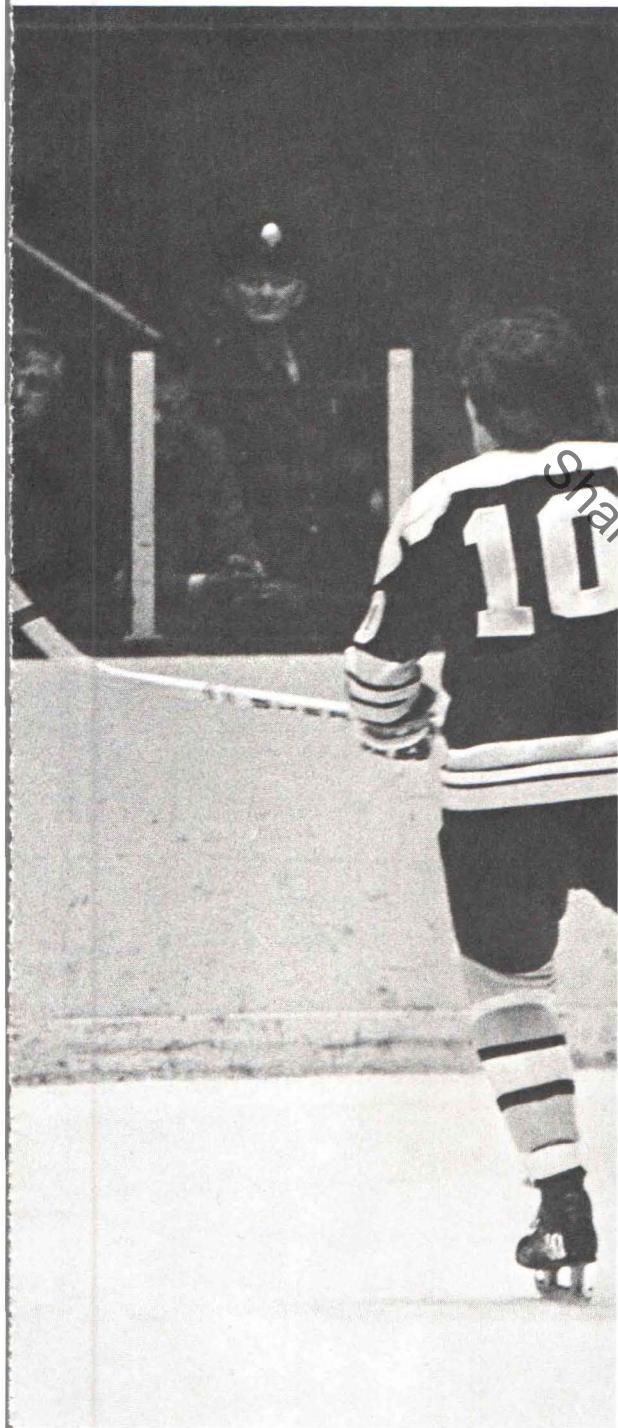
Brad Park and Ken Hodge play ring-around-the-goal as Gilles Villemure appears to want to join in.



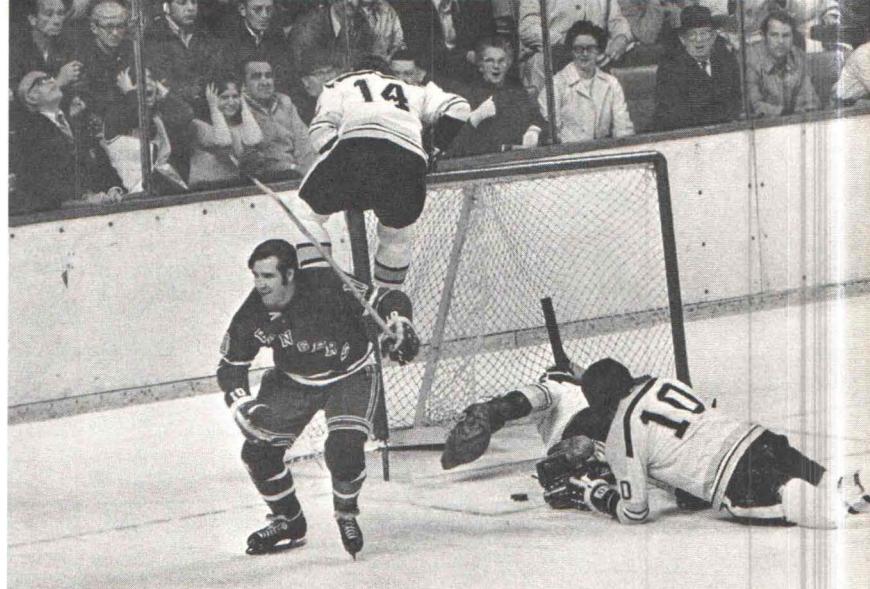
Shared by @HockeyMagazines *It looks like it's in!*



Defenseman Don Awrey (26) smothers the puck, preventing a rebound attempt by New York's Rod Gilbert.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines





Shared by @HockeyMagazine

Ken Hodge has just skimmed a pass out of his zone while the Rangers' Brad Park (2) and Vic Hadfield scamper back on defense.



You can't stop them all.



Close, Gene Carr, but no cigar!

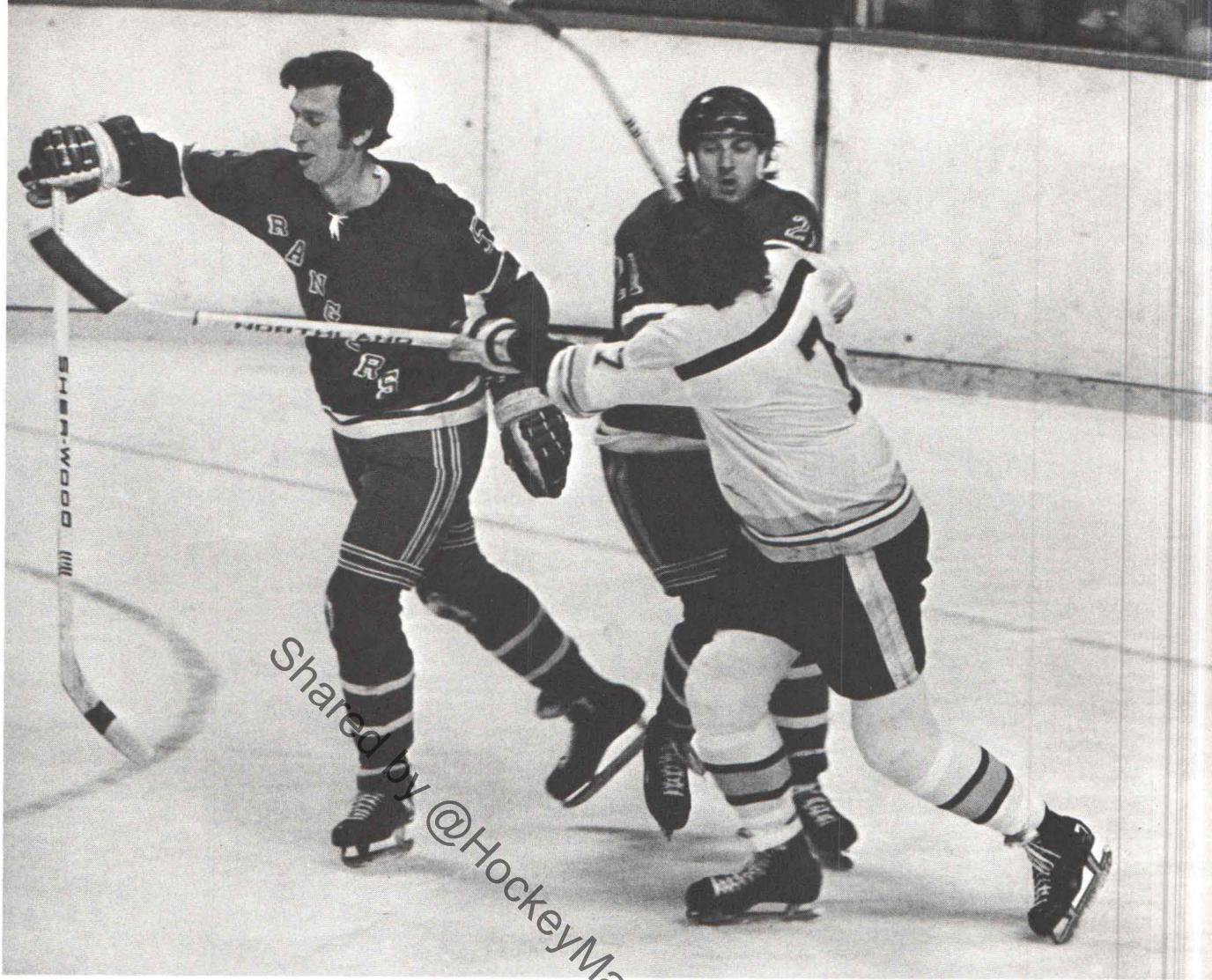
Shared by @HockeyMagazines







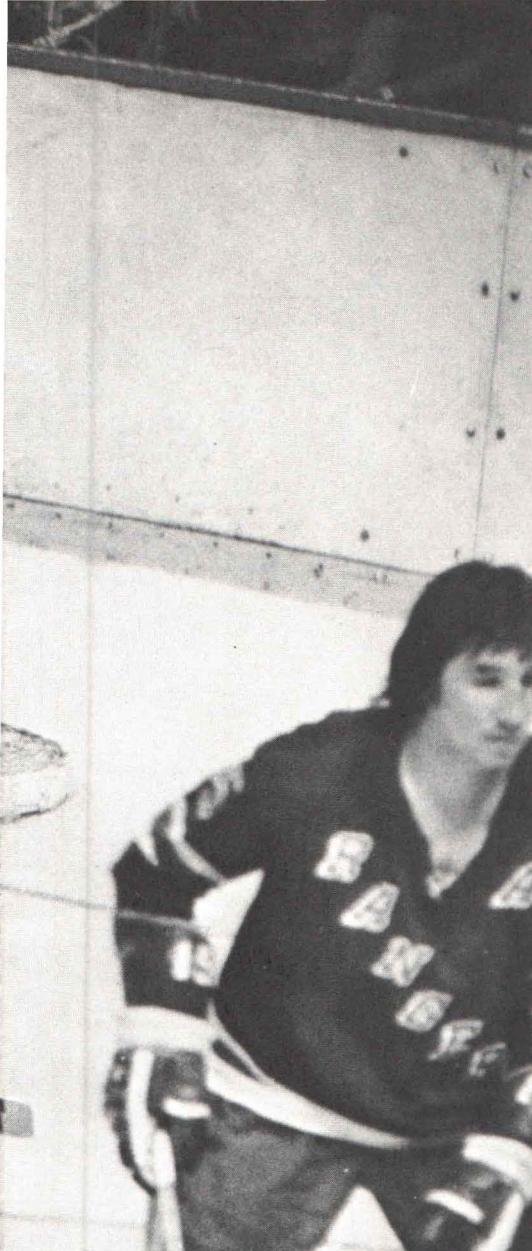
Ratelle cuts in front of Bruins' goal.



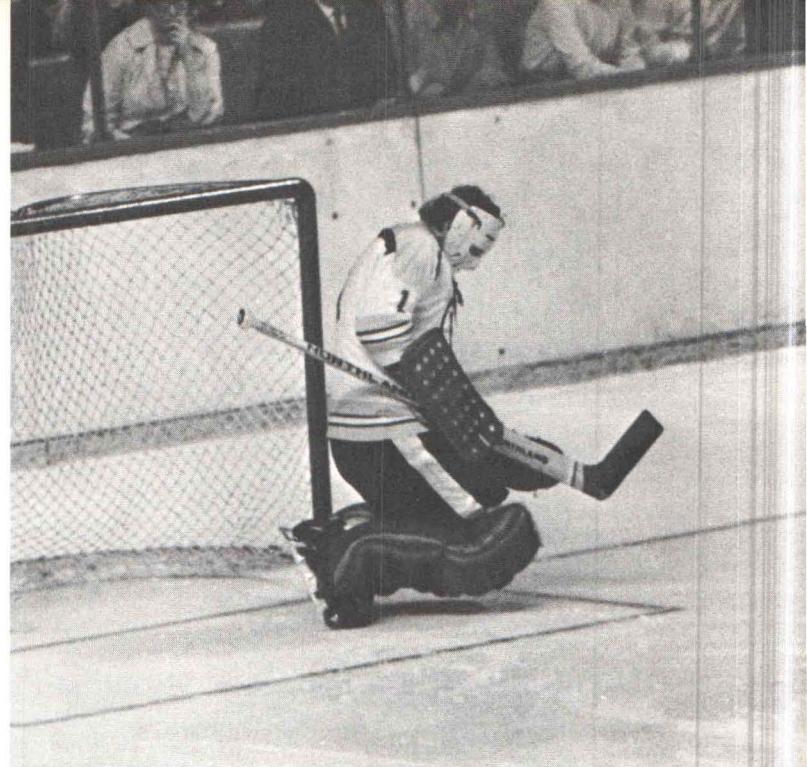


Shared by @HockeyMagazines

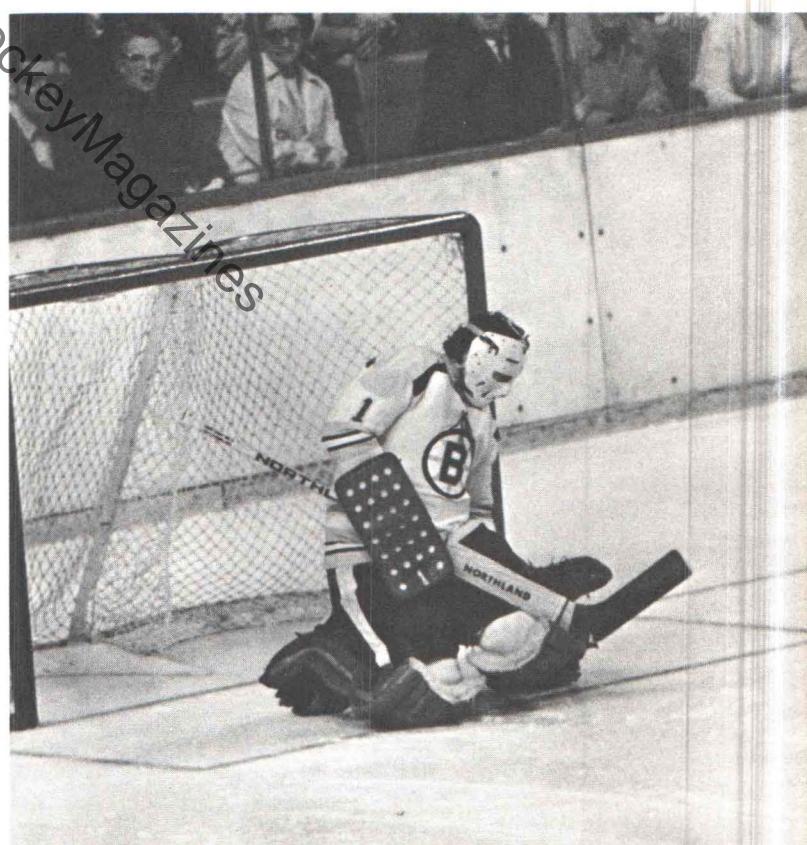
Wayne Cashman positions himself perfectly to screen goalie Gilles Villemure and Villemure seems to be asking him to move.

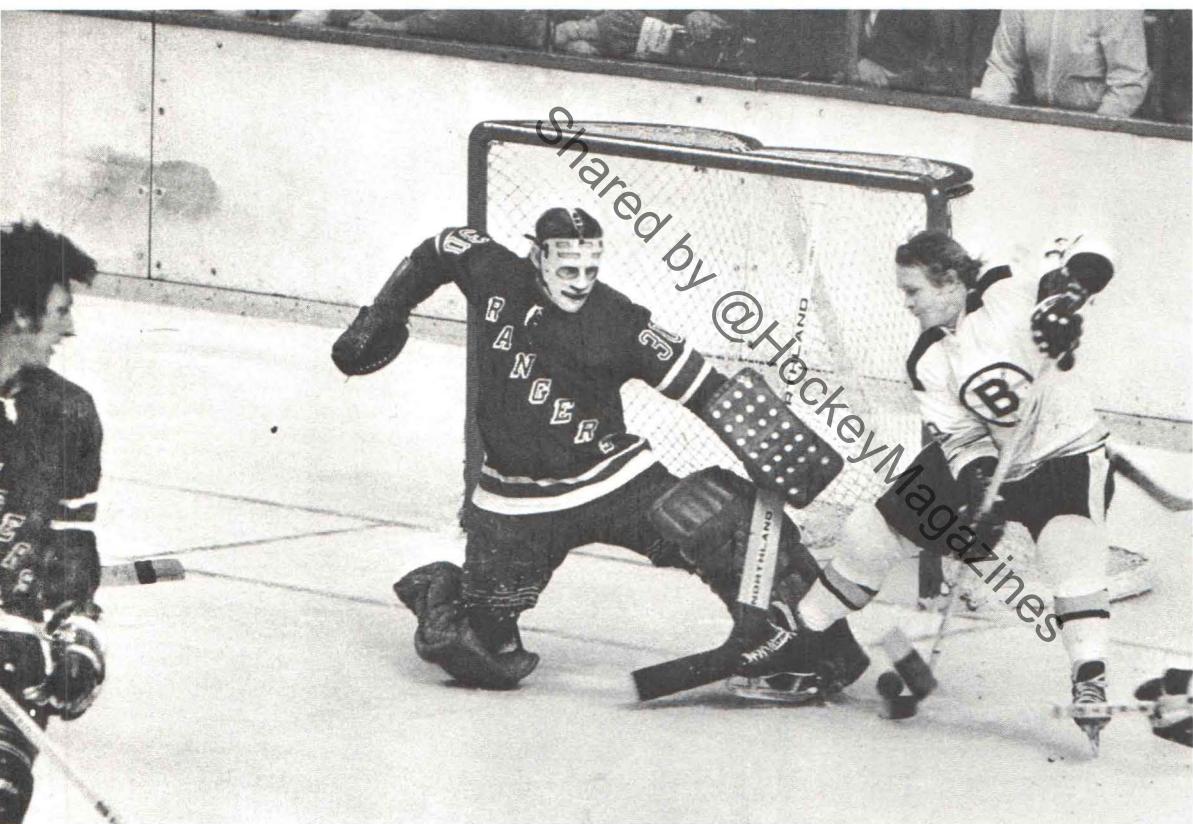


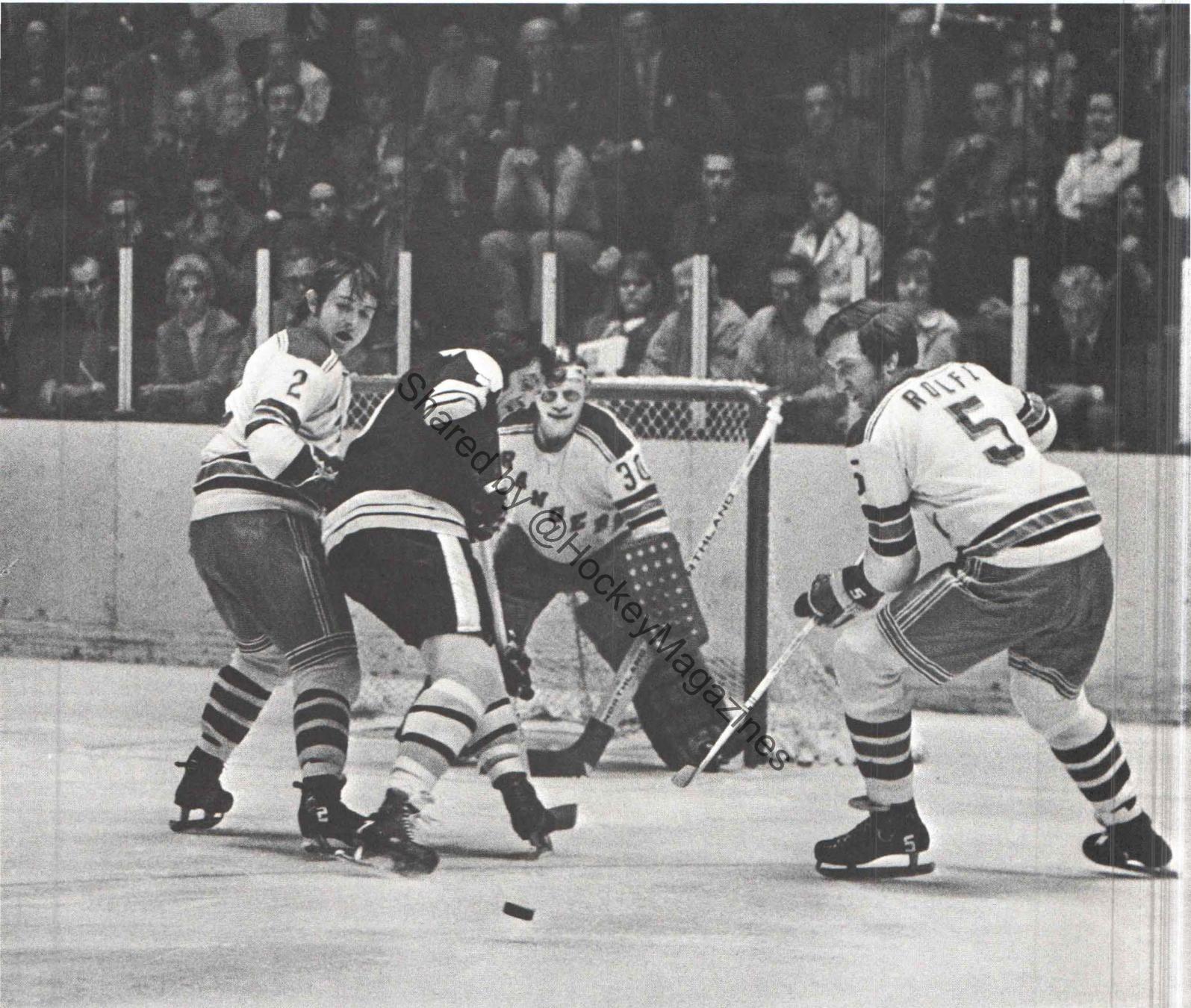
Shared by @HockeyMagazines



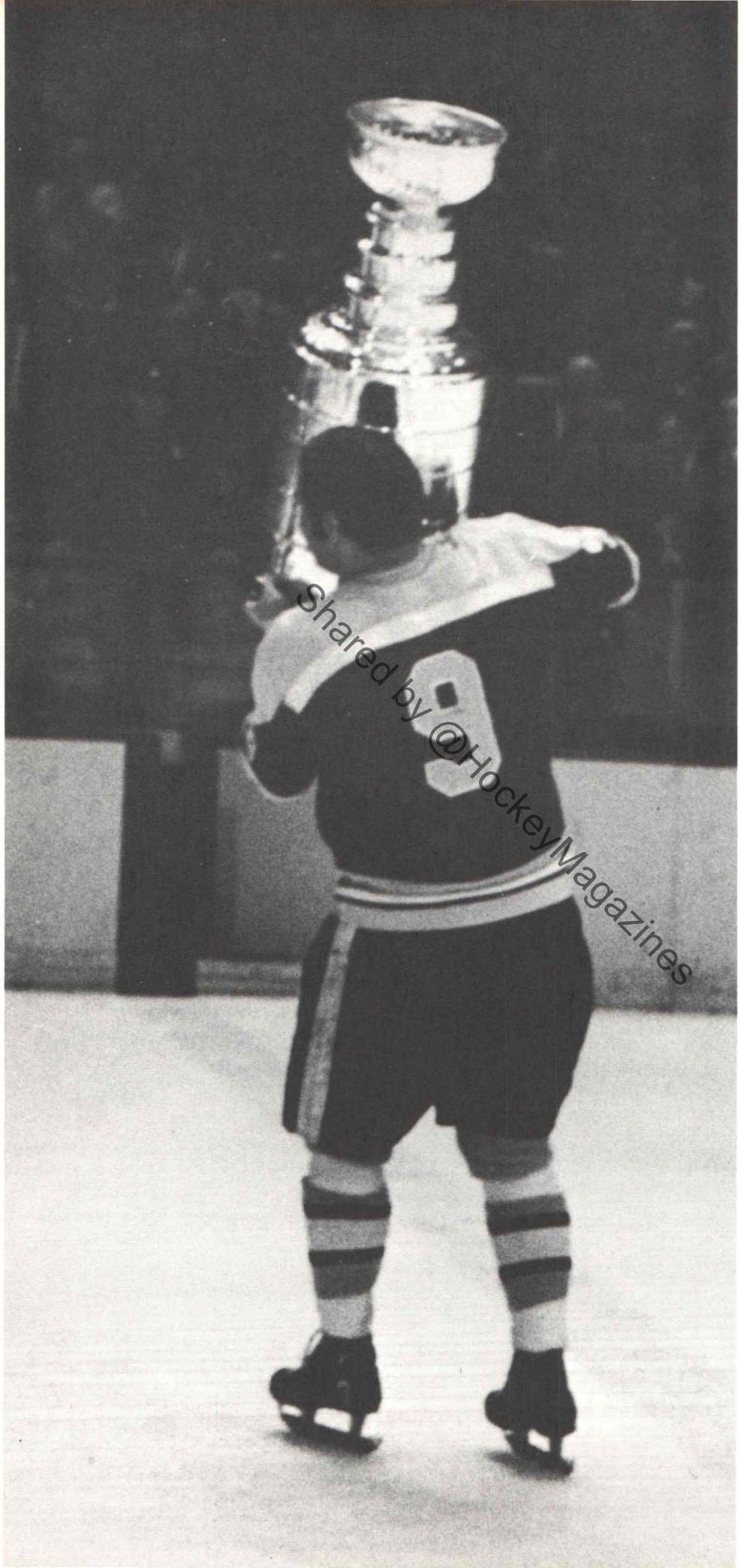
A typical goaltenders maneuver—Ed Johnston smothers the puck.



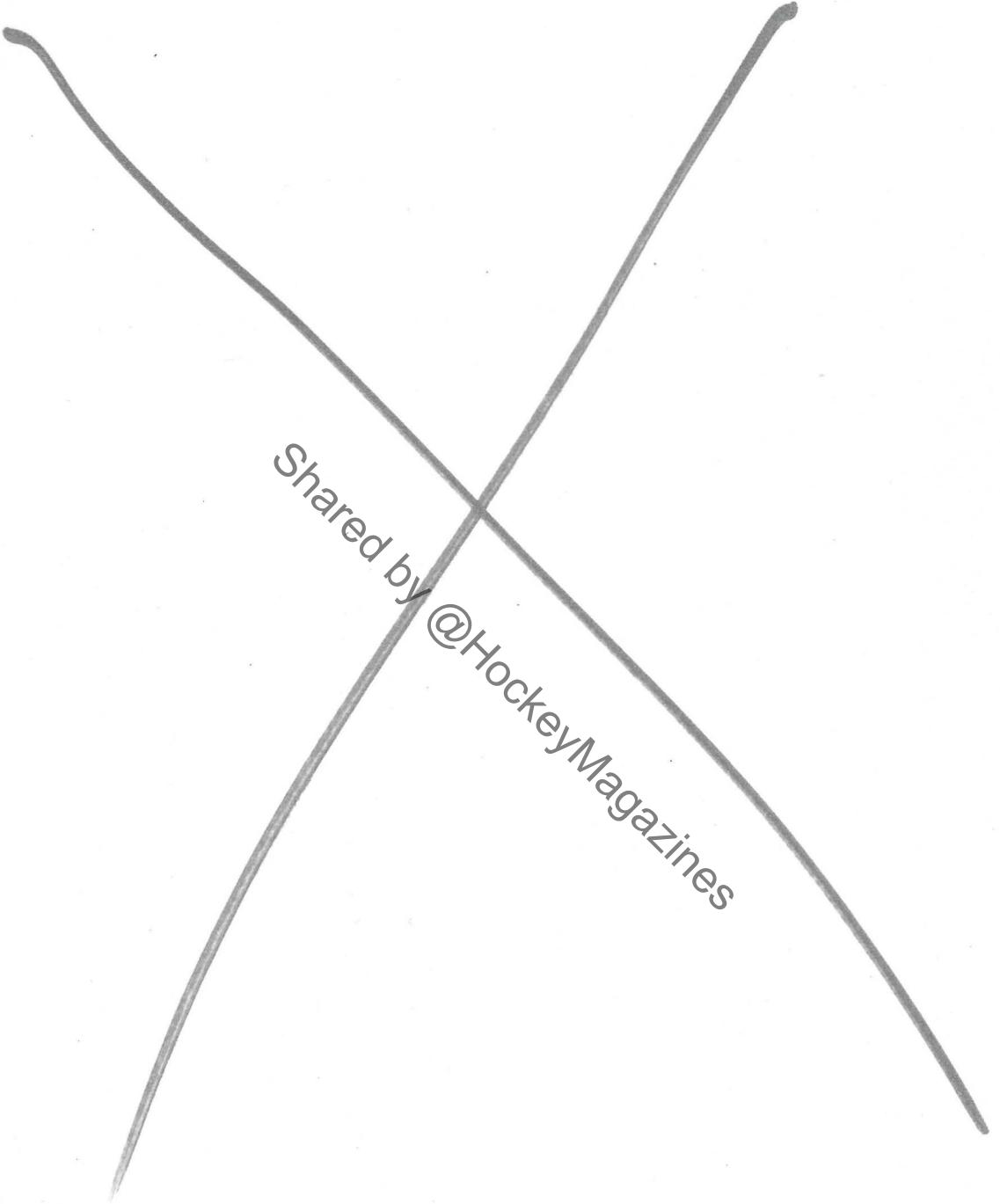




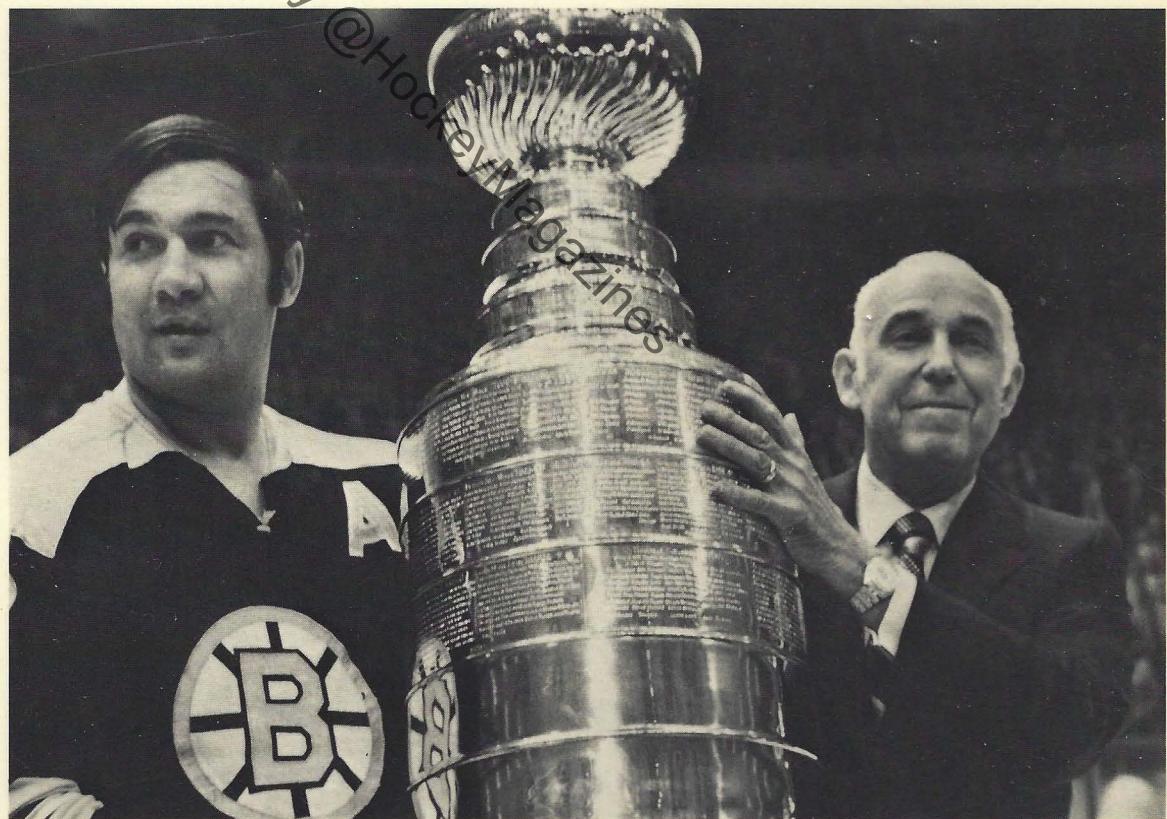
Ranger defenseman Dale Rolfe punctures Phil Esposito's goal scoring thrust.



Shared by @HockeyMagazines



Shared by @HockeyMagazines



Shared by @HockeyMagazines

A Stuart L. Daniels Book
PRENTICE-HALL, INC.
Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey

\$3.95

0-13-126607-1